

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts

No. 2145.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1868.



CHRISTMAS LECTURES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, Albemarle-street, W.

WILLIAM ODING, Esq. F.R.S. will DELIVER, during the Christmas Vacation, a Course of SIX LECTURES, adapted to a Juvenile Audience. On the Chemical Changes of Carbon. They will commence on TUESDAY, December 29th, at 3 o'clock, and be continued on Thursday, December 31st, 1868; Saturday, Jan. 2, Tuesday, Jan. 5, Thursday, Jan. 7, and Saturday, Jan. 9, 1869.

Non-Subscribers to the Royal Institution are admitted to this Course on the payment of One Guinea each, and Children under 16 years of age, Half-a-Guinea. Subscribers to all the Courses of Lectures delivered in the Season pay Two Guineas. A Syllabus may be obtained at the Royal Institution.

Dec. 1868.

H. BENCE JONES, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.—THE MEETING for the ELECTION of ASSOCIATES for this Society will in future be held at the End of MARCH instead of February.—Particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, **WILLIAM CALLOW.**

a, Pall Mall East.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

The Examination of Candidates for the Society's Educational Prizes will take place in the week commencing MONDAY, April 19th, 1869. Copies of the forms required, to be sent in by the 15th March, may be obtained on application to

H. HALL DARE, Secretary.

12, Hanover-square, London, W.

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9, CONDUIT-STREET, Regent-street.

FIRST ORDINARY MEETING, Session 1868-69, MONDAY, December 7, at 8 p.m., Paper by the Rev. W. W. English, M.A., 'Ethical Philosophy in its Relations to Science and Revelation.'

On January 4, 1869, a Paper by Dominick McCausland, Esq., Q.C., LL.D., 'On some Uses of Sacred Primæval History.'

On January 18, a Paper by the Rev. C. A. Row, M.A., 'On the Relation of Reason to Theology and Revelation.'

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—The Publication of this Almanack, announced for the 10th inst., will not take place till the 17th, in order that the Ministerial and other Official Changes consequent upon the resignation of Mr. Disraeli may be embodied.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1868.

LITERATURE

Waterloo Lectures: a Study of the Campaign of 1815. By Lieut.-Col. Charles C. Chesney, R.E. (Longmans & Co.)

"HISTORICAL evidence, like judicial evidence, is founded on the testimony of credible witnesses." To this touchstone Col. Chesney, gifted with a keen power of analysis, and an honest love of truth for truth's sake, has brought the various counterfeit versions of the Waterloo campaign that have too often passed current as sterling history. Once tested, their false glitter can no longer deceive; while, tried by the same process, the genuine truth stands out the brighter for the removal of the "patriotic" tinsel with which it has too often been overlaid.

If an ordinarily well-informed Frenchman is asked how it happened that the French were beaten at Waterloo, he will say, unless he is a Republican, that the mismanagement and treason of Napoleon's generals were the sole causes of the national defeat. If the same question is put to an Englishman, he will say that the victory was the simple result of superior English pluck. Each remains perfectly satisfied with his own version of the story, and no wonder, for it is the faith in which he has been brought up from his childhood. Yet it is hard to say which version contains the least truth. It is established beyond possibility of doubt to any honest inquirer, that whatever fault there was in the management of the French army was due to Napoleon himself, and not to any of his generals. It is established with equal certainty that by the arrival of the Prussians on the French flank sixteen thousand of the seventy-two thousand troops whom Napoleon commanded at Waterloo were withdrawn from the possibility of acting against the Anglo-Belgian line; and that Napoleon had thus for his attack on Wellington only fifty-six thousand men against the sixty-eight thousand that Wellington had on the field. It is equally clear that by half-past five o'clock, before Ney had carried La Haye, in the centre of the English position, Bulow's whole corps of twenty-nine thousand Prussians was on the ground, and that Ziethen's corps drove the French out of Papelotte quite as soon as, if not sooner than, the repulse of the French Guard by the English right. Yet how are our English school histories written? Col. Chesney has shown how one of these entirely ignores the Prussians, except to say that "when night approached the heads of their columns were seen advancing to the combat." We take down another from our book-shelf, published under the auspices of the Christian Knowledge Society, and bearing the authority of no less a name than the present Chaplain-General; and we read that at six o'clock "Bonaparte, whom a few straggling shots on his flank warned of the approach through the wood of the indefatigable Blücher, resolved to make his last effort." And we hear no more of the Prussians till the "rout of the French has become universal," when "the English left to the Prussians, who had now come up, the care of following the fugitives." A handsome notice, truly, of the share borne by the Prussians in a victory which cost them seven thousand killed and wounded!

And this is how history is written! This is how men of mark lend their names to the perpetuation of grave and ungenerous errors! If one portion of that story stands out more clearly than the rest, if one deed is more gallant than another, it is that flank march of the Prussians to the battlefield of Waterloo, when the infantry, worn and weary with long marches, stiff and

aching with nights of exposure to the pitiless rain, pushed on for eight miles through the soft and plashy meadows or through the high, standing corn, over moist and slippery clay, while the artillerymen forced their guns along the wretched country paths,—only urged on by the voice and gestures of that grand old soldier, the leader whom his soldiers loved to call "Father," and whose title of "Marshal Forwards" was never better earned than on this day, when his "Children, you'll never let me break my word!" put fresh life into the hearts of his troops, spurring them on to the field where they were again to meet a foe who but two days before had vanquished them in a bloody battle.

Nor is it only among English historians that generosity and candour are wanting. History presents no more pitiable spectacle than that mighty conqueror, fallen from his high estate, powerless to bear like a brave man and a true soldier the blows which fate had dealt him, writhing under the knowledge that his last grand effort had failed, and, to save his own reputation as a general, indicting those mendacious Memoirs, where he cast false aspersions on his marshals, who had served him only too faithfully, falsifying dates to throw the blame of his own delay on other shoulders, and inventing the text of despatches that had never been written, to prove his best and bravest generals disobedient or incapable.

It is from this source, this "poisoned fount of St. Helena," as Hooper has truly called it, that much French history is taken. Yet not all. As Col. Chesney points out, there are two classes of French writers on this subject, with views diametrically opposed: "The one comprehends the long list of worshippers, who so adore the military genius of Napoleon as to be unable to discern the flaws in their idol. So complete, in their eyes, was his conception, and so perfect his execution of all warlike operations, that failure must be held impossible, as far as his own conduct could affect the result. In all his misfortunes, and in that of Waterloo above all, some other reason must be found for the want of his usual success; and as national vanity forbids the disaster being laid on the quality of the French troops, ingenuity is racked for third causes, which shall spare the honour of the Emperor and his legions." Of these, M. Thiers may be taken as the representative, and while doing homage to his brilliant and lucid style, Col. Chesney convicts him by the test of evidence, not only of prejudice but of wilful suppression. "France," however, he continues, "has no longer any necessity to give herself up to this phantom of history. Writing in her own tongue, and born of her own race, there has of late arisen a severe school of critics who absolutely refuse to follow their predecessors in blind adulation of Napoleon, whether viewed as soldier or emperor. These have gone to work on the Waterloo campaign with the cool deliberation of anatomists dissecting the limbs of the dead to find the true cause of the malady. Facts are what they first seek, and conclusions drawn only from facts to follow. They pursue, indeed, the true historical method; and, as their national pride is enlisted upon the side of France, there is no fear of any general injustice being wrought to the French cause under their treatment." Among these stands forth conspicuously Col. Charras, a republican, banished from France in 1851, and revenging himself in Belgium by writing a true history of the great national disaster. Written truly, conscientiously, and on documentary evidence only, his elaborate work "is, and will probably continue to be,

the first of all authorities on the Waterloo Campaign." Following in his track, M. Quinet has written a more brilliant review of the campaign. "Before his sharp strokes vanish, their magic power dispelled by the touch of truth, those mythic notions of this great struggle, which have too long stood in place of facts, and which he has happily named 'La Légende Napoléonienne.'"

In order to answer the question, why did the French fail in this campaign? it is necessary to consider the actions of Napoleon, the actions of his marshals in subordinate commands, and the actions of the allied generals. And in looking at Napoleon's own part of the transaction, no one can fail to be struck with the extraordinary slowness and inertness of his conduct from the morrow of the day on which he crossed the Belgian frontier. His concentration of 124,000 fighting men, mostly veterans, and every one of whom had served before, was one of those grand conceptions which his genius so well knew how to conceive, and was carried out, on the whole, admirably by his lieutenants. But the delays which proved so fatal to the cause commenced with the very first movement of this assembled army. Time was lost in the early morning of the 15th of June, and it was not till noon that the French commenced to pass through the town of Charleroi. Then, the heads of the columns are delayed by Ziethen's brilliant defensive action, and at nightfall the advanced guard on the road to Fleurus is less than six miles, and the troops on the Brussels road but eight miles from Charleroi. But while the heads of the columns are thus far advanced, Napoleon himself sleeps at Charleroi, and at least 35,000 troops remain that night on the French side of the river. Early in the morning of the 16th, these troops were brought across; yet, although rapid movement was the essence of Napoleon's strategy, although his chief hope was to push back the Prussians away from Wellington before they could concentrate to oppose him in force, it is not till eight o'clock that he issues the orders for forming his army into two wings; it is not till noon that he joins his impatient generals in front of the Prussian position at Ligny; and it is not till half-past two that he attacks Blücher, who had now no less than 85,000 men in position, whereas at daybreak he had but 29,000 in front of Napoleon's right wing. And now the Emperor fights the battle of Ligny, and in a desperate contest defeats the enemy, between whom and his own troops there existed a deadly hatred; but while his troops bivouac on the field, he retires to rest at Fleurus. Day dawns on the 17th, and finds the Prussian army already stolen away from the battle-field, and retreating in full march on Wavre; while, incredible as it may seem to those who remember the Napoleon of Marengo and of Austerlitz, it is not till eight o'clock that he quits his quarters at Fleurus. Thence he drives in a carriage to Ligny, reviews his troops, and discusses politics with his generals, only leaving the ground after noon, when Wellington is well advanced in his retreat from Quatre Bras on Waterloo, and the Prussians were collecting at Wavre.

Meanwhile Ney, commanding the left wing, has received no orders from Napoleon on the 16th till nearly 11 A.M., and has only been able to collect his troops for the attack on the English position at Quatre Bras between 1 and 2 o'clock. Checked by the reinforcements rapidly arriving to the support of the position, he is still on his old ground that night; and there he remains next day till the arrival of Napoleon with more troops, when the retiring English are pursued as well as the stormy weather

and their rearguard of cavalry will permit. Before leaving Ligny, Napoleon has despatched Grouchy to Gembloux, with 33,000 men, to pursue Blücher, of whose line of retreat it is clear that Napoleon was in doubt. At night Grouchy is at Gembloux, full fourteen miles, as the crow flies, from Napoleon at Belle Alliance; while there are but eight miles between Blücher at Wavre and Wellington at Mont St.-Jean. The blow that Napoleon had meditated was about to fall on his own head. The enemies, whom he had designed to separate and defeat in detail, were in full communication with each other, and their arrangements matured for the morrow; while his own army was in two fractions, twice as far apart as the armies of the Allies, and without any plan of concert. As Col. Chesney says, "There is not a tittle of evidence to confirm, and every reason to disbelieve, his story, that he sent fresh orders that night to Grouchy. Weighing all these facts fairly, it appears the inevitable deduction that the Allies had now thoroughly out-manœuvred their enemy, and that their better strategy and his own mistakes during the day had placed him at a fearful disadvantage in the struggle of the morrow."

Col. Chesney speaks of the Emperor, in his second lecture, as being still in "the prime of life, and in all the apparent vigour of intellect." Yet it seems to us that these strange delays, which caused his generals to forebode the worst results, can only be accounted for by accepting the description of him given by Col. Charas. By this writer, he is depicted as old before his time, and broken in constitution by the hard labours of former days and the odious compulsory ease of Elba, added to "une double maladie dont les crises se multipliaient en s'aggravant." It is said that his eye shone as brightly as of yore; his glance had the same power; but his figure had grown heavy and stout, and his cheeks puffed and pendent; and that there were visible in him the signs of coming physical decay; while he could not stand the same fatigue, or do without sleep, as in the days of his successful campaigns. In no other way can we account for his want of energy on these two eventful days—a fatal lethargy that destroyed the last hopes of success for his already too rash and venturesome scheme.

We can thus trace very clearly the influence of Napoleon's inactivity on the issue of the campaign. That cause of failure is, however, ignored or combated by historians of the Napoleonic school, who seek to find in the conduct of Napoleon's generals the excuse for the too evident errors. By Napoleon himself, the desertion of Bourmont, which took place on the 15th, after the march had commenced, has been antedated a day, so as to give colour to the story that he first informed the Allies of the movements of the army. False accusations have been heaped upon Ney. He has been charged with neglecting to obey an order, received on the 15th, to occupy Quatre Bras that day; but the evidence is overwhelming that no such order was ever issued. The 'Memoirs' of St. Helena assert that Ney was ordered in the night to advance on Quatre Bras at daylight; and Col. Chesney has truly stigmatized the assertion as "a shameless falsehood." There is no pretence for believing the assertion that he had any instructions to occupy Quatre Bras before those we have mentioned as reaching him about eleven, and no unnecessary delay can be proved against him after their receipt; and the order alleged to have been sent to him to attack Quatre Bras again at daybreak of the 17th is now convincingly proved to be a fiction, without a shadow of foundation in fact.

But most virulent and most unjust are the

charges hurled with malignant fury at Grouchy. "By omitting the hour of his movements, and coupling its mention with the morning orders to Ney (falsely said to be given *à la pointe du jour*), the 'Mémoires' version is designed to impress the reader with the idea that he was sent off soon after daybreak, and wilfully halted long at Gembloux,"—an assertion too strong even for M. Thiers to support. Yet it is placed beyond question, by unimpeachable evidence, that he received no order till mid-day, and that his march of eight miles from St.-Amand to Gembloux, through a narrow, muddy lane, and in torrents of rain accompanying a tremendous thunder-storm, was not completed till a late hour at night. Grouchy's conduct on that day was a literal fulfilment of his orders. "It was not Grouchy who put the movement off until the fine half of the summer day was spent. It was not Grouchy who sent Grouchy to Gembloux instead of through Tilly towards Wavre, or across the Dyle. It was not Grouchy who ordered reconnaissances to the east, and none to the west in the space between him and his main army." In like manner, we may trace the same envenomed fangs engaged in the other attempts to worry and pull to pieces Grouchy's conduct on the following day. Two orders are alleged to have been sent to him on the night of the 17th; but as Quinet well puts it, "The two officers sent by Napoleon were never seen by Grouchy. No one has ever been able to give their names. The orders they are asserted to have carried are not to be found registered in the staff records. What is still more to the purpose, in the despatches which followed Napoleon made no mention whatever of these orders of the night. He does not insist upon their execution. He does not even refer to them, contrary to invariable custom." And, if we examine Grouchy's actions on the 18th, we shall find them to have been well considered and executed. He could not have reached Waterloo in time to have been of use in the battle, had he moved direct on Mont St.-Jean, when he first heard the cannonade from his position at Sart-les-Walhain; for a single passenger on foot takes five hours and a half to traverse the road by Mousty to Plancenois. Even had he done so, he would have been acting contrary to the letter and spirit of his orders, which were to follow the Prussians, whom he now knew to have retreated on Wavre. But no language is found to sever for Grouchy's acts on this day by the same writers who can scarcely find one word to say on his behalf for his brilliant retreat on the 19th and 20th, a masterpiece of cool, nervous energy, of wise generalship in the face of terrible responsibility.

We will follow no further these nauseous charges, rank with meanness, injustice and falsehood. Rather let us turn briefly to the conduct of the Allies, which, though the subject of no slight controversy, is not defiled by such malignant fabrications. Argument there has been; and Wellington, as late as 1842, stepped into the arena to criticize Clausewitz's account of the campaign; but he was then seventy-three years of age, his memory was evidently at fault, and his memorandum is inaccurate in more than one important point. Yet no writer, as far as we know, has noticed these inaccuracies before Col. Chesney. He is no bigoted defender of Wellington; and his view of the campaign tends rather, as we think that of any truly impartial inquirer must, to make Blücher and his Prussians the chief heroes of the campaign. Wellington's strategy in halting to fight at Waterloo was perfect; his tactical dispositions were here, as always, admirable; the noble courage and devotion of the British troops are beyond all praise; but on Wellington's strategy

at the commencement of the campaign it is impossible to look without finding cause for censure.

It has been said that the Allies were "surprised" in the Waterloo campaign, and this alleged "surprise" has been given as an excuse for their want of concentration in time to meet the enemy before arriving at a point only fourteen miles from Brussels. But, in truth, they were not surprised. Wellington's Despatches show plainly that he had ample reason, several days before the attack took place, to expect just what occurred. We have that under his own hand. Nevertheless, when Ney halted before Quatre Bras on the night of the 15th, there was only Prince Bernard's brigade of 4,000 men at that place to bar the road to Brussels. At first this appears inexplicable. But the reasons and the judgment upon them may be taken from the pen of Wellington's personal friend and yet honest critic, Sir Shaw Kennedy. "They were not surprised," he writes; "they knew of the movements of the French quite in time to have enabled them to assemble their armies before Napoleon passed the frontier. They acted on a different principle, and determined to continue in their cantonments until they knew positively the line of attack. It may safely be predicted that this determination will be considered by future and dispassionate historians as a great mistake; for in place of waiting to see where the blow actually fell, the armies should have been instantly put in motion to assemble. Nor was this the only error. The line of cantonments occupied was greatly too extended." Muffling, another friendly critic, cannot withhold his opinion to the same effect.

Nor was this Wellington's only fault. His delay at Brussels, till after the famous ball, can only be regarded as a serious error. Muffling shows that if Wellington had left Brussels on the 14th, Napoleon would have fallen into the Caudine Forks on the 16th. As it is, when first he hears of the attack, his orders for the concentration at Nivelles call off the Brussels road, seven miles to the west, that very brigade which alone stood in the path of the French. Fortunately these orders were disobeyed, but Colonel Hamley has spoken truth, bold though it be, of the hero whom he loves to praise, when he writes that by his delay at Brussels he was "throwing away golden minutes. By riding towards Charleroi at the first alarm, he would have seen for himself that this was no feint, but an advance in force, and by next morning he might have assembled troops there sufficient to beat Ney and to aid Blücher. There would have been no mention then in his orders of Nivelles—no delay in marching his reserves—but words inspired by certainty, sharp, short and decisive."

The retention at Hal of those 17,000 Dutch Belgians during the battle was another fault, which is universally condemned by continental critics. But throughout the whole campaign Wellington's extraordinary conviction that Napoleon would endeavour to turn his right affected his dispositions. It is evident that his one great fear was for his communications; and that he held their preservation second to no other object. In this he is a striking contrast to Blücher. The old Prince, and his chief of the staff, Gneisenau—his head, as Blücher called him, when he boasted he could kiss his own head, a feat no one else could perform—are found abandoning their communications with Liege, retiring northwards at this great sacrifice upon Wavre, and making a daring flank movement, with Grouchy in full march on their last line of communication through Louvain. The caution of Wellington acts as a strong foil to

the boldness of Blücher. To us it has always seemed that the experience of the two men may be traced exercising a marked influence on this portion of their conduct. Wellington, accustomed to warfare in Spain, with allies often utterly untrustworthy, as the Spanish armies more than once proved at the most critical moment, had learnt to rely on his own troops alone. Terrible experience after Talavera had taught him that he dared not trust to foreign pledges for supplies, even of food for his men, though starvation stared them in the face; and thus he clung with the tenacity of a bull-dog to his communications with his ships at Ostend. Blücher, on the other hand, always used to fight with allies of no mean order, had learnt the value of that inward touch which, in strategy as in tactics, prevents those fatal gaps in the line that form the first mark of the enemy's shafts, and risks all to keep his post close to the side of his ally. No words of ours can paint the gallantry of that act half so forcibly as the fact, now well established, that up to the last moment Napoleon, the boldest strategist of Europe, utterly disbelieved in its probability. He took it for granted that Blücher had retreated from Ligny on Namur, and he did not the least foresee the Prussian march on his flank at Waterloo. Well did Blücher redeem by that act of noble magnanimity the errors of his tactical disposition at Ligny. Well did he and his nation earn the gratitude of England,—a debt, as we have seen, too often unacknowledged.

Of the battle itself we have not to speak. Colonel Chesney only treats it as an incident of the campaign, of whose strategy it was the crowning act. "The strategy to which Napoleon had looked to atone, as in his early glories, for inferiority of numbers, fails him utterly in face of the firm, compact, and mutual trust of Wellington and Blücher. The sword to which he loved to appeal is stricken from his grasp for ever. Henceforth a lonely exile, he lives only to brood over his mighty past, to paint his mistakes as calamities, his fall as the work of others; consoled, it may be, by a vision of the day when a meretricious romance, based on his own figments, shall be accepted by the French for their national history."

Such is the picture drawn by Colonel Chesney. Does all history present a sadder spectacle than that familiar figure standing with folded arms gazing over the ocean from the solitary rock—a more awful warning of the fate of genius without principle, of mighty talents prostituted to selfish ends?

Studies of Early French Poetry. By Walter Besant. (Macmillan & Co.)

A good idea is a good thing, but it is like a chariot without the steeds, of small practical value unless it be put into action. Now, Mr. Besant has not only had a good idea, but he has known how to work it. In one moderately-sized volume he has contrived to introduce us to the very best, if not to all, of the early French poets. Their names are unknown to English readers generally, and we might say to French readers also; for nowhere is there such ignorance of native ancient sons of song as in France. Young people who have made out "Le Coq et la Pierre précieuse" in their Chambaud's Fables, may here see in what shape and in what pretty quaint French young Gauls and Franks read the same fable centuries ago. In all this old French verse there is a lightness, a grace and a gaiety which, except in Béranger's *chants* and *chansons*, is nowhere else to be found. Even in the old coarse rhymes which tickled the ears not alone of the old coarse

bourgeoisie, but of castled dames, damoiseaux and demoiselles, there was truly a humour frank, real and honest, compensating for what now seems vulgarity, but which was not considered vulgar in the old outspoken times. In most of the samples given here of the old free harp and lyre of France there is little or nothing for prudery to be alarmed at, and studies of early French poetry would not be complete without them; but there is abundance from other and different measures, in which pure gaiety or exalted sentiment, lightness of heart or loftiness of purpose, the hopes of love and the chances of war, the thoughts of shepherds and the aspirations of heroes, are exquisitely illustrated. We cannot fancy that a young student can enjoy a higher delight than the one Mr. Besant here affords him, of roaming free in the old fragrant meadows, and among the thick clustering flowers of French poetry, after being shut up with the Frenchified Greeks and Romans of Racine and Corneille, or trying to wade through the one solitary and unreadable French epic, the 'Henriade' of Voltaire.

Mr. Besant accomplishes his work in "a baker's dozen" of chapters. In these, we inhale the perfume of a few flowers gathered from wide-apart meadows, and we may judge of the richness of the land by the wealth and beauty of the samples. In making the collection, Mr. Besant has mostly stooped to gather for himself, but he has sometimes been content to take from the heaps collected by others. In both cases, he has shown himself equal to the task he undertook. His comments are often as good as his samples, and unlearned readers may smile to find through his help that poets forestalled both Bunyan and Tennyson, and that the French had—or dealt with such subjects as—"The Pilgrim's Progress," and 'The Vision of Fair Women,' before they were treated by the later authors, and planted by their genius in literature for ever. In the old days there was a mythology of chivalry, an allegorical mythology, and a christian mythology. The illustrations of these began in the thirteenth century, perhaps earlier. "We find the allegorical spirit," says Mr. Besant, "in Spenser, still apparently fresh and young, though really moribund, and the last wave from this movement of the thirteenth century broke on English ears in the seventeenth, when the best of our allegories, 'The Pilgrim's Progress,' was written."

The French Pilgrim's Progress, called 'The Romance of the three Pilgrimages,' is the work of a Cistercian monk, De Guillelme, and is of the fourteenth century. An English version of it was current here in the century succeeding. Mr. Besant details the leading incidents of the French work. In a vision, the pilgrim sees the Holy City his soul thirsts to visit, access to which by the unworthy is prevented by armed angels. The pilgrim is met, however, by the Lady Grâce de Dieu, who fits him for the task of obtaining entrance by making him worthy. He is purified, instructed, and sent forth in the panoply of a blameless Christian; but he is allowed to change his arms and armour for David's sling and stones. Passions, perils, sorrows, temptations, all personified, assail him, but Reason and Grâce de Dieu are his companions, and by their aid the pilgrim escapes from or overcomes all his assailants—except the last, Infirmité, who lays hold of him, and Death who mows him down. Even God's Grace and what is called Reason cannot save him from this inevitable passage in the pilgrimage. Mr. Besant points out the superiority of Bunyan's allegorical conclusion. "Death comes at last (in De Guillelme) not as Bunyan's higher fancy painted it, in the shape of a cold river which must be passed, but in the commoner image of an

armed figure with a scythe." Both dreaming pilgrims awake after the shock of the catastrophe. "I could not make out," says the French Pilgrim, "whether I were alive or dead, till I heard the night clock strike, calling me to rise, and thereupon the cock, who began to crow." Macaulay's assertion that 'Sir Bevis of Southampton' was the only book of popular literature that Bunyan had ever read, need not imply that he had never heard at village fires of the story of a pilgrimage, as first told in French by De Guillelme. The idea of such a circumstance was natural to the lofty English dreamer, and it had probably occupied many a man's brain, just as even children's imaginations lift them to Heaven, where they get bewildered with the idea of a life that shall last for ever, and with the conceit of an endless to-day, that shall never know a morrow. At all events, Bunyan did with his materials, supposing he had garnered up ideas born of old stories of divine dreams, as Genius always does,—he touched them with a light, a grace, a solemnity, and a beauty, peculiar to himself, and which made the allegory all his own. De Guillelme's Pilgrim no more affects Bunyan's than Salandra's 'Adamo Caduto' affects Milton's 'Paradise Lost.'

John Newton, of Olney and St. Mary Woolnoth: an Autobiography and Narrative. Compiled chiefly from his Diary and other Unpublished Documents. By the Rev. Josiah Bull, M.A. (Religious Tract Society.)

In the Preface we are informed that the materials for this volume "include a diary unknown to previous biographers, covering a period of fifty-seven years, and a very large correspondence, together with other documents of great value and interest, the greater part of which have never yet been published." If, therefore, any interesting particulars could be extracted from the diary of so good a man as John Newton, and if they could be strikingly disposed and displayed by so good a man as Mr. Josiah Bull, we might fairly have expected an instructive and attractive publication. With all brotherly kindness, however, it must be admitted that the diary is commonplace, the incidents ordinary, the narrative dull, the style tame, if there be any style at all, and that the goodness of both the diarist and the editor is so unruffled and so continuous that one is wickedly tempted to wish that both these excellent gentlemen would occasionally record a few venial sins, for the sake of variety, and to assure us that we are really reading about men of like passions with ourselves.

No man of true religious feeling can entertain anything but respect and esteem for Mr. Newton, of Olney; but this is very different from the opinion which may be formed of his Diary here reproduced. In so far as we have read it, we think his most judicious friends will regret its publication. It was never designed for the public eye. To a few people of limited thought, intelligence and reading, it may appear edifying, and we can only hope it will be seen by no others. Well may he say, "I could not but observe how different do I appear on paper from what I know myself to be." With still deeper feeling would he repeat this sentiment if he could first read the volume now published.

Innumerable complaints of the lack of resignation, of high piety and spiritual vigour, are, as might be expected, to be found in the extracts from his diary; and, of course, the credit of all this backwardness is given to the Devil. Once, indeed, we find a grain of counterbalancing sense:—"I know," says Mr. Newton, "the reason of this want of spiritual life—*Perimus licitis*. The Devil attacks some by

storm, with violent temptations within or without; but he lays against me, as it were by sap, in a more secret way, but not less dangerous, by beguiling my affections. But why do I say the Devil? Alas! my own heart is weak and wicked enough to ruin me. This it is that sets my idols against the Lord, and brings me under the power of lawful things."

The doctrine of a Special Providence is frequently introduced, and presumed to be strongly illustrated by certain events in Mr. Newton's life. How this important doctrine may be misapplied even by educated men has been seldom shown more plainly than in one instance, which we give in the editor's words. Referring to the early period of Mr. Newton's career, before he became a clergyman, and was merely a tide-surveyor at Liverpool, Mr. Bull observes, with reference to some promotion obtained by Newton,—"And how it came about that Mr. Newton got this better situation is but another of the singular illustrations of providential interposition of which his life is so full. It was supposed, though without any sufficient ground, that Mr. Newton's immediate predecessor in office intended to resign his situation. This led Mr. Manesty to apply to the Member for the town for it on his friend's behalf. The request was at once granted under this false impression. But now is the remarkable part of the story: no sooner was the appointment thus given than the place really did become vacant; for the person who then held it was found dead in his bed. Nor was this all: about an hour after the painful event became known, the Mayor of Liverpool applied for the office for a nephew of his; but though thus early in his request he was, of course, too late." "These circumstances," Mr. Newton well observes, "appear to me extraordinary, but of a piece with many other parts of my singular history. And the more so as, by another mistake, I missed the land-waiter's place, which was my first object."

Now on this passage some objections may fairly be raised; and let it be noticed that it is not John Newton, but Mr. Bull, who styles this event "another of the many singular illustrations of providential interposition of which his (Newton's) life is so full." Looked at in the light of common sense, how can it be said that this was a providential interposition on Mr. Newton's behalf without a gross and irreverent reflection on the great Disposer of all things? Here we have five persons, all, of course, under the same Providence. Let us call Mr. Manesty A, Mr. Newton B, the dying officer C, the mayor D, and his nephew E. Of these five persons the problem is, to show how one, B, was strikingly interposed for; and the proposed solution is this: A. exerts himself for B, and secures for him an office which is not really vacant, because C. fills it; but to make B. a beneficiary in fact, Providence intervenes, and removes C. suddenly—that is, Providence sends death to C. But D. and E. are both under Providence, and yet get nothing at all, though they are alert enough in their use of the means. Thus, then, Providence, which really does nothing for D. and E., does everything for A. and B, who don't appear in the least degree more meritorious than D. and E! Remember that Newton was not at this time a devoted clergyman, but a mere civil servant, and he was only promoted to another place in the civil service. Even a Pagan poet would justly warn Mr. Bull against his absurd presumption in the well-known but too oft forgotten admonition—

Nec Deus intersit nisi dignus vindice nodus.

And where is the "dignus vindice nodus" in Mr. Newton's Custom-House promotion?

But worse is yet to come. In order to promote B, poor C. must be taken, without warning, to another world; and this accordingly immediately happened, if we believe Mr. Bull, by a "providential intervention." This is his own clear interpretation of the sudden death of C, if he means anything at all by his phraseology. So, then, two presumably worthy men are defeated, and one presumably worthy man is suddenly removed by death, to secure the civil promotion of a man not presumably worthier than any one of the before-mentioned three! Can anything be more calculated to bring discredit on a great religious doctrine than this "singular illustration" of it? We are glad that John Newton himself does not call this a "providential intervention."

Yet even the pious Newton can delude himself in an extraordinary manner, hoping that the great Disposer of events would give him a prize in the lottery! Strange as this may seem, it is actually recorded in his Diary, thus:—"Tuesday, May 4th.—Determined this day to have a ticket in the ensuing lottery; not, I hope, with a desire of amassing money merely, but, if it should be so, of increasing my capacity for usefulness." Thereafter, in the month of December following, Mr. Newton writes—"Informed by post that my lottery-ticket is a blank. I am content. I should hardly have engaged that way if I had not supposed that my vow and my desire of usefulness therein gave a kind of sanction thereto. And I think if the Lord had given me a prize, it would have been chiefly acceptable as a means of helping the poor, and forwarding the cause of the Gospel in these parts." This reminds us of the announcement at Baden, that the gambling saloon will be opened later on Sundays, to suit the arrangements for divine service!

The phraseology of the Diary, and indeed of the volume throughout, is of that particular kind which is so well known in the biographies and diaries of good men of very limited intelligence and very narrow views as regards the great world around them. For instance, Mr. Newton thus characterizes Yorkshire:—"I have lately been a journey into Yorkshire. That is a flourishing county indeed; like Eden, the garden of the Lord, watered on every side by the streams of the Gospel. There the voice of the turtle is heard in all quarters, and multitudes rejoice in the light." This description does not exactly correspond with our recollections of Yorkshire, nor, if we may believe the Report of the Commissioners on the Pollution of Rivers, can Yorkshire be said to be like Eden, the garden of the Lord, watered on every side by pure streams. But of course Mr. Newton speaks of it figuratively and spiritually, though even in figure it does not exclusively resound with the voice of the turtle. Others, and some very black and harsh birds, have their turn and their croak in Yorkshire.

The only generally interesting portions of the Diary are those which afford us glimpses of Newton's contemporaries—Whitefield the great preacher, Cowper the sweet poet, and Thornton the liberal layman. The last allowed Newton 200*l.* per annum that he might be hospitable to all the brethren; and Newton records that he must have received from Thornton in all about 3,000*l.* Oh, that there were more Thorntons! Newton was hospitable to poor Cowper during his mental malady. So long as the poet worked hard in the garden, he was tolerably well and mentally easy; but when he quitted work, he became melancholy, and in fact insane. When it was proposed to him to leave Newton's house, the depressed poet wept and bemoaned himself. It was a truly Christian act in the

country parson to cherish and entertain the unhappy bard.

Whitefield was often heard by Newton, who greatly admired his preaching, and liberally esteemed him as a true Christian brother, although he was a dissenter. Newton had heard much about Whitefield before he listened to the preacher himself. When he did attend his preaching, he wrote, "Behold the half was not told me." Throughout his course Newton was thoroughly liberal and a brother-loving Christian. We can easily believe that "he was a man of a most loving and tender spirit. He was attracted as by the necessity of his nature to every spirit congenial with his own." Once a little sailor boy, with his father, called on Newton, who took the boy between his knees, told him he had been much at sea himself, and then sang him part of a naval song. All this is pretty and pleasing enough.

Newton is most largely and lastingly known to the Evangelical world by his share in the simple but truly pious Olney Hymns. Of these he himself wrote no less than two hundred and eighty, and Cowper sixty-eight. Every reader of this hymn-book knows that Cowper is the poet, and Newton the religious rhymist. Some of Newton's rhymes are still sung and affectionately remembered—especially three: "Glorious things of thee are spoken;" and "Begone, unbelief," and "Approach, my soul, the mercy-seat." These hymns are the good man's best diary.

When Newton quitted Olney to become the rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, in London, he found "but two gospel ministers who have churches of their own" in the Establishment in this great metropolis—one was himself and the other Mr. Romaine. Naturally those who thought with Newton came to hear him, and crowded his church. The churchwardens proposed a plan for thinning the congregation by getting occasional substitutes for the popular rector, who, however, did not acquiesce in it.

That Newton was not so wholly destitute of wit as his Diary would suggest, appears in the annexed verses, which he wrote to Cowper after the publication of Madan's once notorious book entitled 'Thelyphthora'; or, a Treatise on Female Ruin:—

What different senses in that word, a wife!
It means the comfort or the bane of life.
The happiest state is to be pleased with one,
The next degree is found in having none.

When Newton proposed to publish a series of religious letters, which were selected from his actual correspondence with affluent, careless, and wavering professors, he applied to Cowper for a title. "Can you," says he, "compound me a nice Greek word as pretty in sound and as scholastically put together as *Thelyphthora*, and [of] as much more favourable import as you please, to stand at the top of the title-page, and to serve as a handle for an inquirer." Cowper replied with "*Cardiphonia*," or utterance of the heart. It now appears that many of these letters were originally addressed to the Earl of Dartmouth and to several clergymen, while others were written to ladies, married and single. There exist besides more than a hundred letters addressed by Newton to his servants—to whom he seems to have been a kind master and a Christian monitor.

Full of faith and hope, and ripe in years, the contented diarist at length looked death in the face. "I am packed and sealed," he exclaimed, "and waiting for the post." In his eighty-third year he departed. He was a simple, loving, useful Christian. To say more would be untrue, to say less unjust.

My Diary in Mexico in 1867, including the Last Days of the Emperor Maximilian; with Leaves from the Diary of the Princess Salm-Salm, &c. By Felix Salm-Salm. 2 vols. (Bentley.)

Memories of Mexico. History of the Last Ten Months of the Empire—[*Erinnerungen aus Mexico, &c.*, von Dr. S. Basch]. (Leipzig, Duncker & Humblot; London, Williams & Norgate.)

Sketches of the Last Year of the Mexican Empire. By H. R. Magruder, M.D. Printed for Private Circulation. (Williams & Norgate.)

WITNESSES of the catastrophe in Mexico continue to furnish their depositions, which, like the above, are of more or less value. Prince Salm-Salm is a soldier of fortune—a man who may be thoroughly understood by his own phrase, "War is my element." He had fought with Prussia against Denmark. The Schleswig-Holstein war being over, the American civil war seemed to open on purpose for him; and the Prince went through it all under the banner of the North. Peace having again blessed the States with her presence, Felix Salm-Salm "was horrified" at the idea of leading quietly a garrison life. What he had seen of war made him "more eager" to see more; and he therewith carried his sword to Mexico to uphold that Empire, which his late employers in the United States would no more recognize than they would the independence of the South. This author's narrative deals chiefly with field details. It is rather vapouring and self-laudatory in style; but it is, no doubt, generally faithful, and is certainly interesting. The Emperor Maximilian does not so constantly appear in it as in Dr. Basch's volumes; and when he does, it is, with rare exceptions, in a sort of official costume. In the volumes written by his physician the Emperor is, as it were, in undress. We accompany him and the doctor butterfly-hunting, are with them in their walks and talks, and learn more of that ill-fated sovereign's private way of thinking. According to the reader's taste, he may have the Emperor as a soldier, with the Prince; or in dressing-gown and slippers, with the physician. On the other hand, should he desire to know how matters stood with the French, he will naturally open Dr. Magruder's book, as he was "late attached to the French Expedition." Whoever so refers to Dr. Magruder's volume (which, though "printed for private circulation," is also on sale) will find how Cortez conquered the land, and how opera-singers from Europe "scarcely get through their parts, on account of the dryness of the air and of the fine dust, with which it is impregnated, getting into their throats and irritating their mucous membrane." Of the French there is little said; of Maximilian, even less.

In the volumes by the Prince and the Doctor there is complete accord of opinion on most things. First, that the Emperor was surrounded by traitors, and that, when the French were compelled by the United States to withdraw from the Government, Maximilian lost more enemies than friends by their departure. The sternest adversary of the Emperor who reads this double but accordant testimony might feel sympathy for a young, well-meaning, inexperienced man like Maximilian struggling vainly against insuperable difficulties. It was his nature to have confidence in men because they claimed such trust, to endure all things for a shadowy honour's sake, and to fancy that he would be trusted as unreservedly as he put trust in others. His sole capacity for government was his honesty, which is to say that he had more heart than head for it. All who were

with or against him in the field acknowledge that he was an admirable soldier. His bitterest enemies are not slow to confess that he met his death with the bearing of a true Christian and a gallant gentleman.

Maximilian owed that supreme moment to a triple treachery—of the Church, the French, and, finally, of Lopez. But for the selfish ambition of those whose mouthpiece was Father Fischer (who glides through this tragic drama like a Don Basilio), Maximilian would not have turned back from Orizaba (when he was disposed to proceed to Europe) to resume an empire at Mexico, which he was assured would have efficient support. The support he most needed was stricken from under him by the French. The munitions of war they were compelled to abandon were so conveniently hidden that the Liberals discovered them before the Imperialists, and the former used them for the destruction of the latter, and to avenge acts and decrees of which the French, and not the Imperialists, were the authors. We suspect that neither Dr. Basch nor Prince Felix has much more respect for Bazaine than they have for Lopez or for Juarez. If they look upon the last as the murderer of Maximilian, the Princess hardly seems to share their opinion. She had several interviews with Juarez, and finds no fault with him. If any man could have saved the Emperor, it was Escobedo, but he would not recommend Maximilian to the mercy of Juarez, and the sentence of the court-martial was accordingly executed. If there be no exaggeration in the details by Dr. Basch as to the treatment of the dead body of the victim, they are disgraceful to the Mexican character, but not more so than might be expected of a character which is painted in the blackest colours, and which makes of men in high positions liars, traitors, and rapacious thieves.

In the works of the soldier and the physician, amid the personages that crowd the stage, two chiefly arrest attention. These are the Emperor and Lopez. The first has a certain air of weakness about him. He is, indeed, all simple good nature—brave, tender-hearted, but helpless and incapable in the great difficulty in which the French had left him, with men whom he knew not whether he might trust or not. He is the virtuous but doomed hero of both books. In full contrast with him stands that Miguel Lopez whose name has become so notorious in connexion with the catastrophe at Queretaro. What is essentially novel in these works may be said to chiefly refer to him, and the reader will be interested especially with the Prince's communications in reference to the man and his alleged deeds. He has brought together matter which serves to settle the question, so far as it can be settled by evidence, as to the treachery of this person. The documentary testimony is complete as far as it goes, and begins with an explanatory pamphlet published by Lopez in his own defence. It is too long for quotation; but we may remark that the writer commences by stating that when everything—men, arms, food, hopes and prospects—was at the worst in Queretaro, the desperate condition of affairs occupied his mind, not so much for his own sake as for that of the Emperor. He adds, that on the night of the 14th of May he went secretly over to Escobedo, by Maximilian's order ("who honoured me with his confidence and especial love"), to ask permission for the Emperor to leave the city, with a certain amount of force. This request was refused. After reporting the result to the Emperor, Lopez, "oppressed by tormenting thoughts," went down to that part of the Cruz (the whole locality so called being entrusted to his safeguard) which most needed watching, when he

at once found himself surrounded by a party of the enemy, who told him that they had surprised the place, and that he was their prisoner. There was no signal, no alarm; and Lopez asserts that he neither favoured the success by himself nor by others. Velez entered by an unoccupied embrasure. If there were no troops at the fatal point he was especially recommended to watch, and no gun in the embrasure, it was no fault of his. The men were so demoralized that "nothing could be done with them." Although a prisoner, he states that he was able to reach the Emperor and to execute some of his orders with regard to the disposition of his troops. The Emperor ought to have escaped. Lopez hoped he would, and he has some hits at the stupidity, and some hints as to the jealousy and treachery, of certain unnamed persons about Maximilian, whom they could not or would not serve. As to the fact of Lopez being comfortably at large in the capital when his late fellow officers were in captivity, awaiting death, in Queretaro, Lopez states that he had business in the capital, and that "General Velez had a regard for me when he saw me suffer so much." The writer also says that if any one can prove that he accepted a bribe, "he shall have what I received"—which is a remarkable expression.

Among the documents added to the above statement, and in support thereof, are a note by Escobedo, certifying that Lopez visited him on the night of the 14th of May, and mentioned the wish of the Emperor to be permitted to leave the place; secondly, a note from General Velez that he allowed Lopez to be with him, when other Imperialist officers were prisoners, because he "could render services of which he informed the general"; thirdly, there is a certificate from Jablonski, one of Lopez's officers, to the effect that he was ordered by Lopez, when the latter was a prisoner with the Liberals, to hasten to inform the Emperor that "the enemy had taken the garden of the convent, not knowing how they obtained entrance." Jablonski, who is charged as an accomplice, states that he did as he was ordered, and tried to further the escape of Maximilian, by urging his chief officer to fly with him.

To this publication by Lopez, the field-officers of the late Maximilian very promptly replied by a counter-statement. It is long, but our notice need be directed only to the one or two important points. First, the absence of troops at the spot where the enemy entered on the night of the 14-15th of May was in consequence of a permission obtained by Lopez to move them, on the ground of their assisting in a contemplated sortie that was intended to be made from another spot. Secondly, the gun had been removed from the embrasure without orders; the earth was shovelled down from the embrasure, by which the entrance of the enemy was more easily effected at a moment when ten men under Jablonski occupied the post. The movements of Lopez about the city were perfectly unrestrained. One of the officers of General Velez thus accounted to some of the Imperialist captains for the facility with which the place had been surprised without a shot: "because the commander of the place, Lopez, received us and showed us the way." The commander of the gun removed from the embrasure states that he was ordered, not only to remove, but to turn it pointed against the convent, as the men there were insubordinate. The freedom of action of Jablonski as much puzzled the surprised garrison as that of his chief, Lopez. The latter even approached the Emperor and talked to him of means of flight, and of stopping the advance of the enemy. On the other hand, it is shown that he directed the movement of the hostile forces which had

got possession of the town. A letter by Colonel Mendoza, belonging to that force, is quoted, in which he states that the place was delivered to them by Lopez; and a note from Escobedo himself is given in which the same statement is made. In a separate paper Prince Salm-Salm furnishes a list of incidents equally damaging; among others, that Lopez carried off the Emperor's silver toilette service, that Colonel Rincon, a Liberal officer, said in the presence of the Emperor, that "people like you are made use of, and then kicked," and that the treachery of Lopez was based on a double motive, personal cowardice, the final struggle being at hand, and exasperation at his promotion being neglected by the Emperor through Miramon. The latter general had submitted to Maximilian a document issued when Santa Anna was president, by which Lopez was cashiered and declared incapable of ever serving his country, in consequence of an act of treason (described elsewhere as an attempt to induce the President's body guard to revolt) when the United States were carrying on war with Mexico. Dr. Basch's statements are equally serious, and he confirms the report that when old General Escobar surrendered, Lopez ignobly slapped his face. Finally, every officer of the Imperialist army in Queretaro suffered punishment—death or imprisonment; Lopez and Jablonski are described as being in no way molested. Maximilian himself, when his own death was impending, made a difference between Marquez and Lopez. He would hang Marquez, he said, for his treason, but he could only feel contempt for Lopez as a coward. Prince Salm-Salm, who writes without any passion, and who would, after his release, have fought Lopez had the latter been willing to accept the challenge he had provoked, does him the justice of saying that it is quite possible Lopez, in betraying the place, had no idea that it would cost the Emperor his life. This is very likely to be well-founded, for Escobedo promised the Emperor's life, upon his honour, in Prince Salm-Salm's hearing; that every one captured in Queretaro should be treated as prisoners of war. But he who commits an evil deed is responsible for all the consequences. Palacio, looking down on the dead body of Maximilian, said to some French officers who had remained in his service, "This was the work of France."

NEW NOVELS.

Nature's Nobleman. By the Author of 'Rachel's Secret,' &c. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

We have never shrunk from avowing ourselves plainly against sensation novels, and this is a very sensational novel. But just as one has often to admit good qualities in the most obnoxious acquaintance, and sometimes even to give him due to the Devil, so it is absolutely unavoidable to give praise to this book. We style it sensational. It is within the bounds of probability that the author may dispute the definition. Here is our justification: it tells a story which from beginning to end abounds in incidents and coincidences inconceivable to ninety-nine out of every hundred of its readers, and to the solitary unhappy odd one only barely conceivable with wonderment. It is a curious reflection, how seldom, as a matter of fact, marvelous coincidences turn up in real life. How many have any of us really ever known?—we mean one of the kind read of in stirring fiction. Life jogs on, on the whole, very systematically; and fond lovers who suddenly discover themselves to be nearly related to one other, and gallant officers who find themselves in a ball-room *vis-à-vis* to a forgotten victim of culpable gallantry ten years back, are not pictures that

appeal to anything but imagination. If we are right in calling a novel sensational that depends for its interest on such pictures as these, no book can more truly be called sensational than this one.

And yet, as we have said, and in spite of all this, we feel bound to praise the book. First of all, for its negative qualities; it is free from the most objectionable characteristics of its species. Not a single one of the seven deadly sins (assuming ourselves to be right as to what they are) crops up in it. A comparatively undamaging seduction, and that only dimly implied and hinted at, is the nearest approach to a spice of immorality. The only suggestion of murder relates to some years before the tale begins, and nothing hinges on it. Nobody seems even tempted to commit bigamy; and the one case of sudden death is both natural and satisfactory. The only sensation is in the plot; and this we are not going to epitomize, because we want our readers to read it for themselves, and to get from the novel the same fresh and rare enjoyment that we have found in its pages.

As to the leading actors in the story, nobody will find fault, except in two cases; in one on the ground that the character is over-drawn, and that Mrs. Slydersly both out-Slyderslys Mrs. Slydersly in her worldliness, and also gives an exaggerated idea of the social position of a country mayoress; in the other, that the capriciously-drawn portrait of Beatrice Rossitur fails so strangely in interpreting its well-sustained mystery. A girl of her calibre, not artificial, but by the writer's great art thoroughly real and human, deserves at least to be called before the curtain and allowed to speak her epilogue. The omission is disappointing, and all the more curious from the praiseworthy elaboration of every other portrait in the story. The only theory we can suggest in explanation is that the last part of the drama had to be played out too rapidly. 'Nature's Nobleman' has evidently not been thrown off in an idle moment. As to the other characters (and there are not too many of them), they may one and all be described as carefully-executed *bassi-rilievi*, from the hero downwards.

The supernumeraries are excellent in their different lines. "Good old Dr. Letheby," the parson, is a fair specimen; the "kind-hearted man, good to the poor," who "seldom preached for more than ten minutes at a stretch," and of these ten minutes occupied five "in taking snuff and turning over his leaves, and in finding his place when he had lost it," and who yet somehow managed to "preach in his own simple loving life a better sermon" than all the scholars in his cathedral city of Slumborough—*alias*, we imagine, York. It is a valuable quality in a novelist to be able to present in a few words a character which, like this, is both natural and worth talking about. Nothing, too, can be better than the comparatively full-length likeness of the jovial Squire: the embodiment of all one's pleasantest ideas of a jolly, kind-hearted, respectable yeoman of the old school into one huge, burly lump of flesh and blood. The author deserves extra praise as to this Mr. Shenstone, because she has (though as by fire) avoided the very seductive temptation of ideal hero-worship. Squire Shenstone's flesh and blood are not only a pleasant embodiment of pleasant ideas, but they are unmistakable flesh and blood after all.

Undoubtedly, however, the most humorous portions of the book are to be found in the ante-prandial prattlings, in the cathedral close, of the three old Bedesmen, whose godfathers and godmothers, in days of a very different cathedral régime, had given them the names

of Silas Doughty, Matthew Dunn, and Marmaduke Kenkle respectively. The last "had the misfortune to be a dissenter," and was given to lucubrating against "Riddlism."

Nellie's Memories: a Domestic Story. By Rosa Nouchette Carey. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

We should be saved from more trouble than our readers can imagine, and our readers from more trouble than we care to think about, if a book like this could be dismissed with the simple verdict "Not worth reading." Truest kindness to its author would be to leave it alone. Charity of the next order suggests that we may at least assure our readers there is no vice in it. Frigid conscientiousness compels the indisputable assertion that it is not worth reading. With the least grain of revenge in his composition a critic who has plodded through the eight hundred and fifty closely-printed pages of "Nellie's" domestic experiences could be truthfully cruel. Obligated to give up the first, we take the greatest of the other modes of procedure, which is charity; and pronounce the book harmless. Nobody can run the slightest risk of being contaminated by this morsel of light literature. "Nellie" is a good, homely, motherly eldest sister of a large assortment of sisters and brothers, whom she manages admirably; some of them die, some of them suffer from indisposition, some of them make acquaintance with life's troubles, and some of them marry and are given in marriage. When they are going to die, this is a specimen of their way of meeting the uncomfortable necessity—(and in case it makes any difference to the author, we admit that the *moribunda* is not one of the sisters and brothers):—"Marion, this is not well; why have you not told me before that you were ill? I should never have known it but for Nellie, who opened my eyes this morning. What ails you, Marion; and why do you hide it from those who love you?" "Have you never heard of the stricken deer?" she answered, with a mournful smile, "that leaves its comrades to die alone. I fancy I have something of the deer-nature about me; I cannot bear to betray pain, I would fain eschew all weakness, I would hide myself, unwomanlike, in a mantle of reserve. I must suffer—good—but why should others suffer with me? I respect their tender hearts, I spare them!"

With thankful hearts we avow that real life has never yet made us familiar with this pitch of young-ladyish sentimentality, nor with a good many other of the styles of conversation of which this is a fair specimen. Conversation, however, unfortunately happens to be the staple of the book, and the only part of it which rivets attention favourably or unfavourably. And if we were asked whether we preferred the conversation or the story, we are very much afraid the Arab proverb would suggest itself, about the camel who, when questioned as to his preference for up-hill or down-hill, expressed an emphatic wish that Heaven would do away with both. Only we should not use such strong language as the camel is reported to have used, because of our promise recorded above as to charity.

Olive Varcoe: a Novel. By Francis Derrick. 3 vols. (Saunders, Otley & Co.)

'Olive Varcoe' appeared in the columns of the *Family Herald* before it assumed the dignity of a three-volume novel. As the readers of the *Family Herald*, *Reynolds's Miscellany*, the *London Journal*, and other representatives of penny serial literature, are more numerous than those of the most successful three-volume

novel, the quality of the fiction that finds most acceptance amongst them is a matter of some importance. 'Olive Varcoe' is a sensational story, the improbability of which is only to be matched by its practical impossibility; but it has a substantial fund of interest. It is thoroughly exciting, and the reader will not become critical until the last sentence of the third volume has been read. Then, and not till then, will the utter nonsense, the highly-coloured exaggeration of sentiment, the profusion of epithets, the mixture of sugar, spangles and spice, which go to form the material out of which this novel is made, become palpable. Lord Byron's famous lines about

The rage of the vulture, the love of the turtle,
Now melt into sorrow, now madden to crime,

might have been taken by the author to describe the character of his heroine, Miss Olive Varcoe. She is an orphan girl, a poor relation, and dependent on the stately household of Trewavas, in Cornwall. Her father had been a wealthy, eccentric man, who had resided in the East, where he married a slave wife, and he had died at Smyrna, after dissipating his whole fortune, leaving an only child, the little Olive, to the care of the British Consul and the tender mercies of his aunt, the Lady Trewavas. Olive Varcoe is about as undesirable a *protégée* as could be placed in a well-regulated English household,—a little witch. She had from time to time nearly driven her aunt to distraction by her pranks and passions. Amongst her other peculiarities, telling lies was the most pronounced. She was a "strange girl, dangerous to herself and others, vindictive yet generous, false yet fascinating and tender; a girl whom it was impossible to hate and perilous to love." This very problematical young lady falls in love with her cousin, Sir Hilton Trewavas, Bart., in spite of all the care of her aunt to keep her eldest grandson out of mischief and harm's way, by inviting a beautiful young lady, Miss Eleanor Maristowe, who had a large fortune, and was in every way fitted to become his wife. But the mischief had been done long before Miss Olive was fifteen. Sir Hilton had loved her as his companion, flirted with her as she grew older, and the difficulties thrown in the way of their meeting only broke the peaceful tranquillity of their relationship; but he never entertained the idea of marrying a wife of such questionable endowments and antecedents. Meanwhile the fair Eleanor had fallen in love with the indifferent Sir Hilton, and to hide her preference had flirted with his brother John, an excellent, kind-hearted young man, full of chivalry and generosity; but he, not understanding the state of Miss Maristowe's heart, is deceived by her apparent preference, and gives her his whole affection. Eventually Sir Hilton allows himself to be languidly charmed with Eleanor, and to recognize her fitness to be his wife, the old Lady Trewavas doing all in her power to promote the match. The complication is clever, and it is indicated with a dramatic force and briefness which is very creditable to the author's skill in telling a story. When Sir Hilton makes his proposal to Eleanor, she taxes him with his attachment to Olive, which he angrily denies, and Eleanor is only too glad to believe him. That very same day Olive returns to Trewavas from a long visit. Sir Hilton receives her with something more than cousinly affection, but he leaves her, to ride out with Eleanor, a proceeding which makes that "fiery particle," Miss Olive's heart, burn with jealousy. The distress of John Trewavas and the wild passion of Olive are very well given. Olive talks of nothing less than murder and suicide. John Trewavas talks quietly and sensibly, and as Olive knows the secret of his attachment,

they can talk frankly to each other. But all his good counsel cannot prevent Olive from plotting to make Miss Maristowe break her neck the next time she goes out with Sir Hilton, though she afterwards repents, and contrives, at the expense of one of the falsehoods for which she is famous, to send Eleanor out to drive instead, which also causes a quarrel between the lovers. The result is only to bring Sir Hilton and Eleanor nearer together, to hasten the time fixed for the marriage, and to force Sir Hilton to comply with Eleanor's demand, that Olive shall be banished from Trewavas. All this is cleverly written; the play of the different characters is well managed, and the interest is that of character, not of mere incident. The scene between John Trewavas and his brother is almost powerful. John Trewavas sees that his brother does not really care for Eleanor; he tries to turn him aside from the marriage. It is very clear to him that it is Olive whom Sir Hilton really loves, and that her banishment is a serious annoyance to his selfishness. John believes that Eleanor cares for himself, and has only accepted his brother from ambition; he has every reason to think so. That very day Olive gives way to a more than usually violent burst of fury, cursing Eleanor with a vehemence that frightens all who hear her; and at last John Trewavas takes her up in his arms, carries her off to her room and locks her in, "to keep her out of mischief." Trewavas, however, is an old-fashioned mansion, and there is a winding-staircase and a secret door. Through this door Olive goes out, and makes her way into the park, where, in a secluded arbour, by the side of an ornamental piece of water, she comes upon Eleanor. The two women tell each other their mind with great bitterness. The quarrel is overheard by a young squire who is desperately in love with Olive, and wants to marry her; he hears Olive's threats of vengeance, and Eleanor's exasperating replies. He pursues his way, and when at some distance he hears the shriek of some one in mortal agony. After that he comes upon Olive, who exhibits a mortal terror at the sight of him; she makes him promise not to mention having met her, but she will give no explanation of her agitation. In the morning he is coming across the park with a friend; they have to pass the pool, and they see the body of Eleanor Maristowe lying below the surface with the hands tied together by the red cord that Olive Varcoe wore as a girdle. The circumstantial evidence seems to be conclusive against Olive; her own conduct under the circumstances is peculiar. The reader is not told who committed the murder, but it is certain that it is not Olive, though she allows herself to seem guilty. Sir Hilton has no doubt of the fact, and he tries to promote her escape, to shield his family from disgrace. From this point the story falls off, not only in merit but in interest. The reader knows that Olive did not actually commit the murder, and that she is sacrificing herself to screen another. But Olive had hated the dead girl with a hatred that was enough for twenty murders—her hand might be guiltless, but she could not feel that she was therefore innocent. No attempt is made to show the natural horror and remorse that would overtake one who found her worst wishes for her enemy suddenly realized; there is nothing said to indicate any awakening of conscience, nor is there any indication of horror at bearing the outward brand of the crime she had so narrowly escaped committing. The author does not avail himself of the higher quality which there was opportunity of infusing into the story; Olive is transformed by a touch of harlequin's wand from an ungovernable little fury into a suffering angel and patient martyr. The rest of

the novel is filled with the common and vulgar incidents of a detective-police affair, neither effective nor genuine. The interest revives a little when the true murderer avows himself, showing that the author has the power to do something better than to write a flashy tale like 'Olive Varcoe.'

The Talk of the Town: a Novel. 3 vols. (Newby.)

THE 'Talk of the Town' can scarcely be called a novel; there is no more plot in it than in a book of memoirs, but there is a great deal of very good delineation of character. It deals entirely with ordinary incidents and ordinary people, but they are handled with a delicate reality which makes them almost works of art. The story is not entertaining, for the effect upon the reader can scarcely be other than melancholy. It details the career of three young men, brothers, and sons of an old country squire. Bertie Newmarch, the dandy and beauty, and pet of his mother, is also a fool; his career in the regiment darkens from folly to vice, and from vice to blackguardism; he marries a ballet-girl, who is a great deal too good for him, and dies in a lunatic asylum, having swamped what sense he had in brandy and soda-water. George Newmarch is a far better type of young man than Bertie: but he makes shipwreck in love. The mode in which the author treats the love affair between him and his cousin, Mrs. Tresham, indicates much knowledge of human nature. The weakness and selfishness of this passion are drawn with great skill. There are many women like Helen Tresham. Her very weakness preserves her from the reader's disgust. The whole history of her love, her elopement, her remorse, and the strong maternal instinct which makes her throw over the lover whose life she has ruined, and return to her husband whilst it is yet possible for him to receive her, is told with singular skill; and so is the subsequent portion of her life: there is indeed, a touch of humour in her exit. George Newmarch ends as a Roman Catholic priest, and dies of hardship on a missionary expedition to the Indian tribes of the Rocky Mountains. The other brother marries a good little wife of a limited but gentle nature, who keeps her husband safe and respectable, and supports the credit of the whole family. The scene between her and the poor little ballet-dancer wife of Bertie, is very characteristic. The author of 'The Talk of the Town' possesses singular talent for drawing characters and of working them up with a degree of care and finish not often found in novels of the season. A work of fiction must have a story of which the reader may lay hold; there must be a plot in which the characters have something to do as well as to say; but the present novel is all talk. The story, such as it is, fades away, instead of coming to an end.

Thesaurus Siluricus. The Flora and Fauna of the Silurian Period. With Addenda from Recent Acquisitions. By John J. Bigsby, M.D. (Van Voorst.)

Dr. Bigsby "thanks the Royal Society for a grant of 100l. in aid of the publication of this work, on condition that the Royal Society receive 100 copies for distribution amongst its foreign members and those of the Geological Society of London." The motto on the title-page is the following sentence from Dean Coneybeare:—"The boldest and happiest generalizations must depend upon details." The students of ancient life in the beginning of the present century startled the reading world with the boldness of their generalizations; and now that their generalizations are known to have been

unhappy, a cautious school is needed who shall excite astonishment, not by their bold imaginations, but by their patient industry in accumulating details. As the facts are acquired, the theories are discarded. Even the theologians have now got over the panic into which they were thrown by the geologists. Dr. Bigsby quotes, and we translate, a significant extract from an address delivered by the Bishop of Annecy at Chambéry in 1844: "Half-a-century ago, a Christian orator, suspicious of scientific men, said to them, 'Stop there, and don't dig *jusqu' aux enfers*.' To-day, reassured by the immovable constancy of our faith, we say to you—Dig—dig, still. The deeper you go down, the nearer you will go to the grand mystery of the weakness of man and the truth of religion. Dig, then,—dig; and when science shall have given the last stroke of her hammer upon the foundations of the earth, you can, by the spark of light which it will strike out, read still the idea of God, and contemplate the imprint of his hand."

Dr. Bigsby is a digger. The strata in which he digs is the layer beneath the Old Red Sandstone which is found in the parts of Wales and England inhabited by the ancient Silures. Dr. Bigsby dedicates the 'Thesaurus Siluricus' to Sir Roderick Murchison, as the recognized interpreter and historian of the period. The enthusiasm necessary to carry a man through the compilation of a work so laborious and apparently so dry, ungrateful and wearisome, seems to have been sustained by the belief that it is "the grandest of all periods." He says, moreover, that it was "as yet apparently the seedtime of all succeeding life." What the phrase "the seedtime of all succeeding life" may mean, when used to describe a palæontological period, we cannot pretend to know or imagine,—the geologist's seedtime and the theologian's mystery equally passing comprehension.

The students of the remains of ancient life thought in the last century that as, by means of medals, the antiquaries could clear up the mysteries of history, they, by means of fossils, might clear up the grander problems of the origin of life. Buffon modestly said they might put some numbering-stones upon the eternal road of Time; but Cuvier audaciously hoped to trace the hand of the Creator in the act of creation. Hence the hypothesis of successive creations. Theology excepted, there is no science in which the theories have gone before the facts more boldly than in Palæontology. Marine shells were found on mountains far from the sea; therefore it was said the sea had everywhere covered the land. Fossils were found which were deemed unlike all known plants and animals; and the inference was, that they all belonged to extinct species which had existed in successive creations. Life has not always existed upon the earth, because the supposition is not probable that this planet has always possessed the conditions necessary for the sustenance of life. But the hypothesis is not based upon any conclusive evidence that the earth was inhabited, first, by zoophytes, then mollusks, crustaceans, fish, reptiles, mammals, and lastly men.

The progress of inquiry shows how rash the theorists have been. If we take, for example, any genus of mollusks we shall find widely discrepant opinions in works of authority respecting the numbers of the species; and the genera themselves are not established. Plants and animals, moreover, are found as fossils not in proportion to their numbers in the supposed geological periods, but in proportion to their adaptation for the preserving processes called fossilification. How premature the theories have been may be inferred even from the progress

of Silurian palæontology during the last dozen years. In 1856, the species were estimated at 2,093; and in 1868, at 8,897. "The 'Thesaurus,'" says Dr. Bigsby, "contains 8,897 species, and therefore is an ample field of study, but it probably does not tell us one tenth part of the Silurian life still lying buried in Arctic, Subarctic and Southern America, in Northern Europe, Australia, India, and many other regions. What a splendid promise to the future explorer!" To this exclamation we may add another: how futile must all generalizations and hypotheses be whilst such vast regions remain unexplored!

No writer on ancient life has been more generally read than Hugh Miller; and since he corrected the proof-sheets of his 'Testimony of the Rocks,' the known plants of the Silurian period have increased from 18 to 82 species. No Foraminifera and no Cirripedes had then been discovered; the fishes were then 10, and they are now 37; and the annelida were 10, and they are now 164; the entomostraca were 8, and they are now 318. From these specimen facts recording the increase of knowledge during only twelve years of research, we may infer what future research may do; how valueless the guesses were which preceded the researches; and how long it will be before the facts accumulated will be complete enough to warrant the formation of theories! In regard to living Flora and Fauna of even the best-searched districts in Europe, the results vary according to the abilities of the explorers; and of course the results are still more various of researches respecting the remains of dead Flora and Fauna. Indeed, it may be submitted, that as yet the proportions between localities and species prove nothing more than the slackness or thoroughness of explorers. The Silurian fossiliferous area of Canada alone is between sixty and eighty thousand square miles; and until this area has been explored, and the relations of the Quebec group have been investigated, the Primordial Stage waits for settlement. "The very name," says Dr. Bigsby, "has ceased to be appropriate."

"The Primordial Stage did not start forth, Pallas-like, at once, in full maturity. The quantity, variety, and high rank of its Fauna shut us up from any other conclusion than that it is only part, and a rich part, of an already established Flora and Fauna, lying undetected at present, and perhaps for ever, but which may be any day discovered in some of the many countries not yet examined. The Gazon of Canada, &c., belongs to an anterior and unconformable deposit."

The stage called first in order thus becomes the second stage, and the real first is avowedly unknown!

We have said enough to show with what distrust the conclusions of palæontologists must be received for many a year to come. Many of the ideas of Dr. Bigsby respecting the extinction of genera and species seem nothing better than guesses, but as there are persons who fancy that the geological succession of species is already an ascertained thing, some of the conclusions of the author of a work so conscientious may be commended to their notice:—

"First Appearance.—This may be considered, practically, only another term for the date of its creation, liable, indeed, to mistake in individual cases, which, however, sooner or later meets with correction. While I give my full belief to the sublime utterance of the prophet 'I have made the earth, the man, and the creatures that are thereon, by my great power' (Jer. xxvii. 5.) the present observations rest wholly on natural history facts, derived from the 'Thesaurus,' and similar sources. By far the most important part of a geological formation is its life. Mineral substances, always few in number, are simply ministerial to life. The first appearance of individual existences seems to

be a normal transaction, not a casual, as it appears to be; for the great result is beneficial and harmonious. It takes place (we know not how; no eye saw it) among conditions pre-arranged for healthy subsistence, and not by transmutation. Life started into being, necessarily, in societies both composite and simple, the composite at once, in the beginning of a stage or at any other time. Radiata, Mollusca, Annelida, Articulata, all showing themselves simultaneously, or nearly so, for they subsist on each other. The sporadic method is common to all parts of an epoch; for there has always been a sowing of solitary forms, together with considerable retention of the old population; and there was a growth in numbers until a change in conditions came. All this is well known."

Dr. Bigsby, who must be accepted as a very high authority in reference to the Silurian period, has thus reached conclusions, to be taken, no doubt, for what they are worth, but which must be deemed very discouraging by the gentlemen who expect from the hypothesis of Mr. Charles Darwin "explanations of the geological succession of organic beings." Dr. Bigsby believes that great orders of beings showed themselves simultaneously, and not successively. Life started into being in societies. There was no transmutation. Creation was normal, and not casual. The first or primordial stage is not known, and may be known any day, or never known. Prior to proving an hypothesis by explaining a succession, the succession itself must be found and the first stage of it discovered. Sanguine students may think that the primordial stage may be found any day, and desponding students may think that it never can be known,—the one may hope to find the history of creation, and the other feel convinced it must always remain in darkness; but this much is sure to result from the study—more and more will be revealed respecting the star we live on and the life we share. Dr. Bigsby's 'Thesaurus Siluricus' is, we need scarcely say, so valuable an aid to researches and studies of this kind, that it will find a place in every palæontological library.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

An Elementary Treatise on Electrical Measurement, for the use of Telegraph Inspectors and Operators.
By Latimer Clark. (Spon.)

THE long experience—added to the well-known ability—of Mr. Latimer Clark ensures for this book a high character. It is the result of constant attention to all the phenomena associated with the transmission of electrical disturbances through wires of varying and often of great lengths, and to the disturbing causes which frequently arise in dealing with an element of so subtle a nature as electricity. We regret that Mr. Latimer Clark should write for the learner—"I would advise him, until his views are more matured, to regard electricity as a *substance*, like water or gas, having a veritable existence." This, as it appears to us, unfortunately, fixes upon the word *current* the meaning, usually received, of something *flowing* through the telegraphic wires. When we find that seventeen words per minute are transmitted through the Atlantic Cable—a length of 1,896 miles—it does not simplify the explanation to hamper the untaught mind with the hypothesis of a *substantive fluid* passing at this enormous speed from one end of the cable to the other. The simple idea—partly conveyed by Mr. L. Clark himself on the same page with the above—of the earth and the cable being great reservoirs of electrical energy, force or power, and that a disturbance produced at any point is *felt* at any other point within the circuit formed by earth and wire, is far less objectionable. Supposing the Atlantic Cable to be a tube *filled*—to take Mr. Latimer Clark's own illustration—with water: then a drop of water added in England would occasion the falling out instantly of a drop in America. There has been a movement of the whole mass, but no flow, no current. Something like this takes place when an electrical disturbance

is effected at one end of the wire. We remark on this, knowing how difficult it is to remove an idea when once it has firm possession. Mr. Latimer Clark has, however, done good service in producing this little book, which should be placed in the hands of every telegraphic operator.

Properties of Conic Sections proved Geometrically. Part I.—*The Ellipse.* By the Rev. Henry George Day, M.A. (Macmillan & Co.)

OLD Cambridge men will remember Hustler's Conic Sections, in which the leading definition was that derived from the foci. Mr. Day proceeds on the same plan, taking the definition from the directrix and focus, but his details approach a little nearer to modern forms. It is very necessary that there should be some books on which the ordinary properties should be developed out of some elementary definition; and that derived from the directrix has advantages. Mr. Day's proofs are very simple.

Navigation and Nautical Astronomy (practical, theoretical, scientific) for the Use of Students and Practical Men. By John Merrell and Henry Evers. (Longmans & Co.)

THE authors of these connected works are teachers in the Plymouth school. Both together make 390 pages, which is very fair allowance. There is routine for the practical seaman, and demonstration for the young mathematician. The authors know their business, and also how to make themselves understood.

Every Day: a Story of Common Life. By the Author of 'Ismael and Cassander.' (Provost & Co.) WE have much pleasure in commending this novelette to the only class of persons who are likely to purchase it,—the dealers in waste paper.

The Complete Reader. Book IV.—The Senior Class Reader. By E. T. Stevens and C. Hole. (Longmans & Co.)

THIS is the last of a series of books for teaching reading and spelling. The reading lessons are arranged under the heads of History, Literature, Geography, Travel, and Science. Each is preceded by a vocabulary of the hardest words, with an explanation of their origin and meaning. It is a pity the roots are not translated in the vocabularies. The derivations are generally, but not always, correctly given. *Secrecion* should have been traced to *cerno*, not *cresco*, and *prominent* to *minco*, instead of *minor*. It is a curious mistake to make *excommunication* mean "to eject from fellowship with the church."—*The Class and Standard Series of Reading Books, adapted to the requirements of the Revised Code*, by C. Bilton, B.A. Book V.—*A Poetical Reader*, (Longmans & Co.) belongs to a series intended for a similar purpose. The pieces are well chosen; but we dislike the intermixture of poetical extracts with general reflections in prose, as both unusual and unsuitable.

WE have on our table *The Real Place in History of Jesus and Paul*, Vol. I., complete in itself, containing an unusual Review of the Miraculous History of Jesus, by Edward William Cole (Melbourne, published by the Author).—*The Sure Resting Place*: being selected Sayings of Our Lord Jesus Christ, arranged as a Manual of Faith and Practice, by the Compiler of 'The Divine Teacher' (Smith & Elder).—*The Servant's Magazine*, 1868 (Partridge).—*The Infant's Magazine* (Seeley).—*The Children's Friend*, Vol. VIII. (Seeley).—*The Friendly Visitor*, 1868, with Illustrations (Seeley).—*Tibby the Charwoman and her Friends*, by P. E. S. (Edinburgh, Johnstone & Hunter).—*Band of Hope Review*, 1868 (Partridge).—New Editions of *Apologetic Lectures on the Fundamental Truths of Christianity*, delivered in Leipsic in the Winter of 1864, by C. Ernst Luthardt, translated from the Fifth enlarged and improved Edition, by Sophia Taylor (Edinburgh, Clarke).—*A Biblical Cyclopædia; or, Dictionary of Eastern Antiquities, Geography, Natural History, Sacred Annals and Biography, Theology and Biblical Literature, illustrative of the Old and New Testaments*, edited by John Eadie, D.D., with Maps and Pictorial Illustrations (Griffin).—*Perranzabuloe, the Lost Church Found; or, the Church of England not a New Church, but Ancient, Apostolical and Independent, and a Protecting Church Nine Hundred Years before the Reformation*, by the Rev. C. T. Collins Trelawny,

M.A. (Rivingtons).—*Memoirs of Celebrated Female Sovereigns*, by Mrs. Jameson (Routledge).—*The Poetical Works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*, edited and pre-faced by Robert Buchanan, Vol. I., *Narrative Poems and Ballads* (Moxon).—and *Table Traits, and Something on Them*, by Dr. Doran (Bentley).

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

The Little Gipsy. By Élie Sauvage. Illustrated by Forenz Frölich. (Griffith & Farran.)

WHO does not remember the fascination the gipsies had for us in our childhood? Tales of gipsies, mysterious dread of being taken away by them, and fearful traditions of gipsies who had carried off little boys and girls who ran away from their nurses when out walking, or would not take care of their clothes, are among the nursery series we can most of us remember; and even now gipsies have not lost their charm nor their mystery. 'The Little Gipsy' is an exquisite story, and narrates how a dear little girl was enticed away from her home, in a little hamlet in the Tyrol, and carried off into the forest by a gang of gipsies, and of all that happened to her whilst with them;—how one wicked old gipsy hag beat and ill-used her, and how one good gipsy befriended her, even to giving her a piece of his cloak to keep her warm in winter,—and how she was taught to dance and to sing,—and how at last she got away from the gipsies, and of the wonderful fortune that befell her afterwards,—how she was adopted by Dr. Cornelius, a good musician, because a great singer,—and the wonderful way in which she was restored to her father and mother,—and how good and charming she is in every circumstance,—is narrated with a grace and charm which will fascinate all readers, young or old. The illustrations are singularly graceful, and the Minna is as charming in the pictures as she is in the tale. The development of a dear little child into a beautiful young lady is excellently done. The work is much too elegantly got up to be tossed about in the nursery, and is worthy of a place on the drawing-room table.

Sunbeam Stories. By the Author of 'A Trap to Catch a Sunbeam.' (Lockwood & Co.)

'A Trap to Catch a Sunbeam' was a charming little tale—simple, pleasant and wholesome. We cannot say so much for these 'Sunbeam Stories.' They are sentimental tales turning upon love and marriage, quite unsuitable for children, and yet dull for grown-up people, as the sentiment is a great deal watered, in order, we suppose, to make it less intoxicating to the youthful mind. The first story, called the 'Dream Chintz,' is the best of the two stories which the book contains. A young artist has a fairy dream, in which he sees a pattern for a chintz, which gains him the prize; but the story then goes on to tell how his duty to his mother estranges him from the young woman he was to have married, and the simple element of filial affection is turned into a sentimental lover's quarrel. In 'Sibert's World' a young girl falls in love, on the voluntary principle, with a lame clergyman, and marries somebody for whom she does not care at all. Of course, the marriage is very unhappy. Another young lady, a beauty and an heiress, also falls in love with the same young clergyman, and persists in marrying him in spite of her father's objections. We do not consider this story, either in the subject or the treatment, advisable to put into the hands of young people: the style in which the book is written, and the method in which the stories are told, are not more fortunate than the subjects.

Heroes of the Crusades. By Barbara Hutton. (Griffith & Farran.)

THIS is a very nice book for young people, and, either for a school prize or a Christmas gift, is suitable. The information seems to have been carefully collected, and, though of necessity much compressed, is full of interest and well narrated. There are pictures in the book for those who like them, and the work is prettily got up.

Merry Tales for Little Folk. By Madame de Chatelain. (Lockwood & Co.)

MADAME de Chatelain has made a charming collection of favourite stories, with pretty illustrations.

WE are particularly glad to see an authentic version of our beloved Goody Two-Shoes, which, in these modern days, somebody has tried to improve by leaving Goody Two-Shoes to keep a boarding-school, instead of being driven in a coach-and-six and becoming Lady Jones. We miss, however, the description of that wonderful ghost which appeared in the shape of a windmill, wearing jack-boots, and a gun by its side for a sword! And there are a few other omissions of things which we remember to have read in our nursery rhymes of this dear old story.

Tales of the Toys, told by Themselves. By Frances Freeling Broderip. (Griffith & Farran.)

THE talking toys have evidently been suggested by Hans Andersen, but they lack the quaintness and grace of his stories. They are, however, by no means destitute of merit. The tale of the ball is the prettiest of the series. In books intended for children, it is not advisable to imitate uneducated modes of speech and pronunciation. They are more objectionable in a book than in real life; and young folks would take quite as much interest in the poor woman and the little lame girl who made cheap toys if, instead of saying that "it is worked in the last bit of magenter wool I've got," the word had been spelt correctly. Children have a strange faculty for picking up wrong modes of speech. The book is likely to be popular among young people.

Filling up the Chinks. By the Hon. Mrs. R. J. Greene. (Warne & Co.)

THIS would be a beautiful story but for the ending. We do not say that spoils it; on the contrary, that will recommend it to uncritical readers. A full measure of poetical justice is no pleasant at the time, that, if no afterthoughts are forced upon the mind by habit or necessity, the effect is likely to endure. In the case of this story, however, we have more than poetic justice. The book ends with a moral transformation-scene. The sudden cure of a malady which has oppressed the boy hero all along, his wonderful success in a competitive examination, his generous conquest of the brother who teased him, and his rescue of his overworked father, come upon us so as almost to take away our breath. Delightful as this climax is, we do not think it worthy of what went before. The description of the boy's struggles is of a far higher character. He was real then; his life was an every-day life; his troubles and trials made us take a keen interest in him. The flood of comparative prosperity which comes upon him takes him away from our sympathy. This ought not to be. However, it is not so much a fault in the author as a concession to natural weakness. She felt her hero's misfortunes so painfully that she could not help redressing them. We can hardly wonder at her being carried away by the force of her own painting.

The Adventures of Joshua Hawspeipe, Master Mariner. By Lieut. C. L. Low, late I.N. (Routledge & Sons.)

A short yarn of a shipwreck on the coast of Borneo and a sojourn with a tribe of Dyaks. The most exciting part of the story is the narrow escape of the narrator from the fate of St. Sebastian.

The Young Foresters: a Tale of the Days of Robin Hood. By Anne Bowman. (Routledge & Sons.)

FROM the books which Miss Bowman has written already, we should take her to be a female Capt. Mayne Reid. This time the gallant Captain's writings are crossed with 'Ivanhoe.' It is evident that the scenes with Robin Hood and his band have been to some extent inspired by Sir Walter Scott, just as the adventures with wild cattle, boars and wolves remind us of 'The Boy Hunters.' But while the choice of these subjects is ambitious in a woman, the mixture of two such elements interferes with her success. We cannot believe, and we cannot expect children to believe, that even in the days of Robin Hood two young boys and a young girl could nourish themselves on what they found in the forest, could wander over the country in spite of every kind of danger, could eject wild boars from their dens, and make themselves huts to live in, and all the time keep up their childish frankness and their somewhat Sunday-school morality. It may be a grave question for antiquaries whether artificial

flies were known in the days of Richard the First. But without going into Miss Bowman's history, we must say that she presumes on the right of a children's novelist to make things happen. At the very end of the book, she tacks on an unnecessary incident about a murder and an abduction, in order to enlist the feelings of a Scotch chieftain in the cause of her young heroes. She does much the same throughout the story. People are always turning up just when they are wanted; the right man is always in the right place, unless Miss Bowman prefers him to be in the wrong place. The effect of this in so long a story as 'The Young Foresters' is wearying, as well as inartistic.

Falconhurst; or, Birthday Tales. By the Rev. H. C. Adams. (Warne & Co.)

SOME children lose a balloon in the first chapter of this book, and they are consoled by the stories told them in the chapters following. We are not surprised at the success of the experiment. For our own part, we had forgotten all about the balloon long before we got to the end of the book, and its re-appearance then had too much the air of being planned at the time of its loss to reconcile us to such an excuse for the stories. But the stories themselves are good ones. The second and third are rather too obviously instructive, and the correction of faults in childish character is insisted upon in a way which juvenile offenders will have a right to think obtrusive. The book must not be read by those who sympathize with naughty boys.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Aunt Mildred's Legacy, by Author of 'Best Cheer,' 18mo. 1/6 cl.
Baddley's Cassandra, and other Poems, 12mo. 5/ cl.
Bellow's How not to be Sick, cr. 7vo. 7/6 cl.
Bellow's Philosophy of Eating, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Blunt's Reformation of Church of England, 8vo. 16/ cl.
Bower's Month in the Midlands, illust. oil. 4to. 10/6 cl.
Bunce's Cloud-Land and Shadow Land, 18mo. 3/6 cl.
Carpenter's Introduction to the Bible, 3 vols., 12mo. 16/ cl.
Changes upon Church Bells, 18mo. 1/ cl.
Children's Treasury, 1888, 18mo. 1/ cl.
China and its People, by a Missionary's Wife, 18mo. 1/ cl.
Collier's Little Crowns and How to Win Them, 18mo. 1/ cl.
Corbett's Ralph Luttrell's Fortunes, 12mo. 3/6 cl.
Cowper's History of John Gilpin, illust. by Fitz Cook, 4to. 7/6 cl.
Doctor Syntax's Three Tours, by Combe, illust. cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Donald's Elements of Mathematical, &c., Geograph. by, 18mo. 1/ cl.
Duff's Political Survey, 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Eckley's Minor Chimes, 18mo. 6/ cl.
Episcure's Year Book, 1889, 12mo. 7/6 cl.
Felix Holt, by George Eliot, illust. cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
Gems of English Art, with Illustrations of Texts, by Palgrave, 21/ cl.
Goldstone's Helen, or Temper and its Consequences, 12mo. 1/ cl.
Golden Hours, ed. by Whittemore, 1888, 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Gonzalez and his Waking Dream, 18mo. 1/ cl.
Gray's Little Katy and Jolly Jim, 18mo. 1/6 cl.
Hammond's Jesus and the Little Ones, sq. 2/ cl.
Hard Maple, by Author of 'Wild Life World,' 18mo. 1/6 cl.
Hawthorne's Passages from the American Note-Books, 12mo. 1/ cl.
Hive (The), Vol. 1, cr. 8vo. 1/6 cl.
Holmes's Guardian Angel, 18mo. 1/6 cl.
Homer's Iliad, by Hiley, also Translations of Poems, 2 vols. 10/ cl.
Household Words, ed. by Dickens, Vols. 1 & 2, in 1 vol., 6/ cl.
Howson's Metaphors of St. Paul, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
Hullish's Four-Part Music, Sacred Series, 1 vol. roy. 8vo. 7/ cl.
James's Spiritual Life, 12mo. 5/ cl.
Joe Miller's Jests, Fac-simile Edit., 8vo. 9/6 h.f. bd.
Kelly's Solace of a Solitaire, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
Ker's John Semous, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
Legends of King Arthur and his Knights, 12mo. 1/6 cl.
Leigh's Carols of Cockayne, 18mo. 6/ cl.
Lemon's Tinykin's Transformations, sq. cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Life and Perils of a Little Rabbit, illust. 4to. 2/6 cl.
Mackley's Heather Village, from the German, cr. 8vo. 1/6 cl.
Marshall's Daisy Bright, 18mo. 1/ cl.
Marshall's Grace Baxton, 18mo. 1/6 cl.
Marshall's Little Pent-Cutters, 18mo. 1/ cl.
Martin's Captain's Story, 18mo. 1/ cl.
Matthew's Maggie and Bessie, 18mo. 1/6 cl.
Miser (The), by Hope Isalov, 12mo. 2/6 cl.
Modern Ireland, by an Ulsterman, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
Morris's Shepherd with his Lambs, sq. 2/ cl.
Mother's Treasury, Vol. 5, 1888, 8vo. 2/ cl.
Net Cast in Many Waters, 1888, 8vo. 2/ cl.
Our Curate's Budget, Vol. 1 for 1888, 12mo. 4/6 cl.
Our School Days, 18mo. 1/6 cl.
Owen's Anatomy of Vertebrate Animals—Vol. 3, 'Mammals,' 31/6 cl.
Pennell's Puck on Pegasus, illust. 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Pictures from English History, 4to. 5/ cl.
Ponsard, L'Honnur et l'Argent, with Eng. Notes by Cassal, 3/6 cl.
Postlethwaite's Letters from Greece, 12mo. 4/6 cl.
Postlethwaite's Tour in Crete, 12mo. 3/6 h.f. bd.
Plain Guide for Suitors in the County Court, by a Barrister, 2/6 cl.
Pleasure Book of the Year, in Words and Coloured Pictures, 4to. 5/ cl.
Pulpit Analyst, Vol. 3, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Queer Discourses on Queer Proverbs, by Old Merry, 18mo. 2/6 cl.
Rane's Pocket-Book, 1888, 2/6 in tuck.
Rana, the Story of a Little Frog, sq. 1/ cl. limp.
Read's Cloister and the Heart, 12mo. 2/6 cl.
Read's Double Marriage, or White Lies, cr. 8vo. 4/ cl.
Record of Colloquial Literature, ed. by Gunther, Vol. 4, 8vo. 30/ cl.
Scott's Poetical Works, Vol. 12, 12mo. 3/6 h.f. bd.
Seven Churches of Asia, Photos, 4to. 25/ cl.
Sidney Grey, a Tale of School Life, 12mo. 3/6 cl.
Snowed Up, or Lost in the World, ed. by Stewart, 12mo. 1/6 cl.
Speaker, with Introduction by Morley, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.
Teddy's Dream, 18mo. 1/ cl.
Temple Bar, Vol. 24, 8vo. 5/6 cl.
The Wise, Witty and the Beautiful, Prose and Verse, Vol. 1, 2/6 cl.
Timb's Historic Nupings, a Book of Curiosities, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
Tyras's Companion to the Weather-Glass, cr. 8vo. 1/6 cl.
Tyler's Cyprienne Jacqueline, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.
Valentine's Land Battles, from Hastings to Inkermann, 12mo. 2/6 cl.
Vesman's Daily Meditations, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Wordsworth's Greece, Pictorial, Descriptive, &c., royal 8vo. 21/ cl.

ROBESPIERRE'S VERSES.

LIFE has two eras, and to each
The sweetest melodies belong;
The sweetest utterance of speech,
The sweetest harmony of song:
The earliest that soft accent "Mother,"
Thrilling as the lark's notes above;
Then comes, and sweeter still, another,
Bursting from youthful lips—"I love."
'Tis the maternal voice repeating
The echoed accents of the child;
'Tis the enamoured stripling greeting
The birth of love in transports wild.
Beware! beware! thou heedless maiden,
When that enchanting tone is heard,
That sound with many a care is laden;
There's peril in that mystic word!
Look not on honied words too lightly;
Trust not to every wandering bee;
There's many a meteor shining brightly,
And many a lie looks truthfully.
Deceit may have its eloquence,
And honest passion speechless be.
Let thy heart speak, and not thy sense,
When passion pours its vows to thee.

JOHN BOWRING.

Claremont, Exeter.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

IN his anniversary address to the Royal Society last Monday, the President, General Sabine, gave an able summary of the leading scientific proceedings of the year in which the Society have been actively engaged, or to which they have afforded aid, support and sympathy. Those who have watched the progress of the Royal Society for some years past, will not need to be told that during General Sabine's Presidency their activity in what may be described as matters of public scientific interest has been much more marked than in former periods. Government is fortunate in having such an authority as the Council of the Royal Society to appeal to, whenever they require information on a scientific question. The appeals are more numerous than would commonly be supposed. For ourselves we are well pleased that the Society should stand at the head of the science of Europe—or of the world, and promote research by suggestions and the loan of instruments to the Swedish Arctic Expedition, and by undertaking to superintend the construction of a great reflecting telescope for Australia. And it may be regarded as of good import that in the Society's *Transactions and Proceedings* may be read papers contributed from Norway, Sweden and Denmark, from Munich, Berlin, Bonn and Vienna, from Portugal and Greece, from the Cape of Good Hope, from India, Australia and New Zealand.

The Meteorological Office was one of the first topics which General Sabine brought before his hearers, and continuing, so to speak, his statement from last year, he showed what had been the results of the re-organization of the office, and the present state of operations. The systematic working of the staff of observers, and the instrumental arrangement of the observatories under the control of the central office, have been perfected as much as possible in the time, so as to obtain uniformity of action at the seven British observatories. Each observatory sends up to the office in Parliament Street a monthly record of the observations; and the next question which the Meteorological Committee will take into consideration will be as to the best means and method by which all the weather facts thus carefully collected can be made useful to the public, or to any who wish to study the weather phenomena of the British Islands.

We are glad to learn, on General Sabine's assurance, that the work of ocean meteorology has been commenced: in furtherance of which the co-operation of some of the leading sea-going steamship companies is secured, and a number of the commanders of the vessels are actively engaged in the work of observing. Instruments have also been supplied to other masters of vessels of our mercantile marine, care being always taken that the individuals thus favoured are competent and willing to observe. The stock of observations already collected is so great, forms, as General Sa-

bine has it, such "an immense arrear," that there can be no hope of its speedy publication unless Government will increase the office staff of clerks. Meanwhile the conditions are to be obtained of the atmospheric pressure, temperature, vapour tension, direction and force of wind, character of the weather, and surface temperature in that tract of the Atlantic comprised between 20° N. and 10° S.

As regards the communication of weather intelligence, General Sabine informs us that the system has been further developed, so that the drum-signal is now hoisted at ninety-seven British stations. The news thus conveyed, it should be understood, is not a forecast or prophecy, but a fact. Since February last similar news has been flashed to Hamburg, and the harbour authorities there have resolved to hoist the drum, and at Cuxhaven, whenever intelligence implying probable danger shall be received from London. In France, also, under the direction of the Ministry of Marine, the practice of telegraphing facts has been adopted. Besides all this, the London office makes known to Liverpool and to Holland the existence of a certain amount of barometric pressure between two stations within a defined area. The influence which the distribution of atmospheric pressure exerts on the motion of the air has been much dwelt on by Dr. Buijs Ballot, of Utrecht, and a rule has been propounded by him for inferring the coming direction of the wind, from simultaneous readings of the barometer at different places. For more than a year past the London office has sought to test this rule by systematic discussion of daily meteorological charts of the British Islands, and the nearer coasts of the Continent. It is satisfactory to hear that the results of this investigation are, on the whole, encouraging.

As may be anticipated, the eclipse of the sun of August last was treated of at some length in General Sabine's address, particularly with reference to the spectroscopic observations thereof. But as our columns have recently presented much on this subject, we need not on this occasion do more than mention that the President of the Royal Society takes pains to illustrate the new facts by former observations and intervening researches, thereby rendering them more significant and valuable. In connexion with the most recent spectroscopic observations of the sun, a body of information has been gained which cannot fail to be of high importance in cosmical science. The Royal Society expended nearly 300*l.* for instruments to send out to India for observation of the eclipse, and it is gratifying to learn that, notwithstanding clouds and bad weather brought by the monsoon, so many of the interesting phenomena were really observed. To this, as forming part of the astronomical details, we append the intimation that the great Melbourne telescope was shipped in July last, and has probably arrived ere this at its destination.

The dredging expedition by Dr. Carpenter and Prof. Wyville Thomson, in the North Atlantic, west of the Faroe Islands, in a vessel furnished by the Admiralty, was mentioned by General Sabine. Allowing for unfavourable weather it was successful, as will appear from the report by Dr. Carpenter, which is to be read at an evening Meeting of the Royal Society, and, as we may infer, will prove unusually interesting to naturalists and geologists. It throws light on the condition of animal life, and enlarges our knowledge of temperature at great depths. To pass from this to the Swedish Arctic Expedition was a natural transition; we, however, refer for the particulars to another column, and pass on to the collection of Fossil Plants brought from Greenland by Mr. Whymper, aided by a contribution from the Government Grant Fund of the Royal Society. The Meeting was informed that the entire Collection had been sent for examination and description to Prof. Oswald Heer, of Zurich, who has already published a work, 'Flora Fossilis Arctica.' The description, it appears, has been received, and will ere long be submitted to the Royal Society. Among the specimens are two cones of Magnolia, and the flowers and fruit of a chestnut, which afford fresh evidence of the vigorous growth and ripening that once took place in a high northern

latitude. By Mr. Whymper's collection the number of fossil species of vegetable remains discovered in Greenland is now increased to 137, of which 46 are common to the miocene deposits of Europe. When Prof. Heer returns the specimens to London a complete series is to be deposited in the British Museum.

Terrestrial magnetism and the coincidence of periods of magnetic phenomena with periods of sunspots, and the question therein involved, form a topic on which General Sabine might have been tempted to enlarge, for, as he informed the Meeting, the greater part of his life has been devoted to the investigation of terrestrial magnetism. Here we quote his own words, premising that the papers and maps therein mentioned as completed, or in preparation, are his own achievements. "The reduction," he says, "of the great scientific work, the Magnetic Survey of the South Polar Regions, commenced in 1839, under the auspices and at the expense of Her Majesty's Government, has been completed in the present year by the presentation to the Royal Society, and the publication in the *Philosophical Transactions*, of Maps of the three Magnetic Elements in Southern Parallels, commencing in 30° south, and extending far beyond the limits of ordinary navigation. These Maps are accompanied by Tables containing the numerical co-efficients to be employed in a revision of 'Gauss's General Theory' at the intersection of every fifth degree of latitude and every tenth degree of longitude, between 30° south latitude and the south terrestrial pole. The magnetical determinations of the Survey correspond to the epoch 1842-45. Similar Maps for the corresponding latitudes of the Northern hemisphere, from 30° north latitude to the north terrestrial pole, are in preparation, founded on a co-ordination of results obtained by magneticians of all countries in the fifteen years preceding and the fifteen years following the same mean epoch of 1842-45, and reduced to it. It is hoped that these Maps, with an accompanying Memoir, will be presented to the Royal Society before the close of the present session. There will then remain for subsequent completion, the filling up (still for the same epoch) of the space between the parallels of 30° north and 30° south latitude, for which much preparation has been made in the assemblage of materials requiring only for their co-ordination the allotment of the time needed for the due examination and treatment of so large a body of materials. Should I be so happy as to be able to complete this task also (my work on Terrestrial Magnetism has now extended, more or less, over half a century), I venture to express a hope that the great work of which the foundation will thus have been laid, viz. the Revision of the Gaussian Theory, corresponding to a definite epoch in the great cycle of terrestrial magnetism, may, when a suitable time shall appear to have arrived, be taken up and completed under the auspices of the Royal Society."

Who is there will not join in the wish that the Nestor of the Terrestrial Magnetism may go on to finish his admirable work?

From this rapid summary it will be seen that the entire address as delivered by General Sabine covers a wide range of scientific subjects treated in a way worthy of the occasion. We note in conclusion that an early copy of Vol. II. of the "Catalogue of Scientific Papers" was laid on the table before the meeting, and that its publication may be expected in the course of a few weeks.

NORTH POLAR EXPLORATION.

It appears now pretty certain that our cousins across the Atlantic purpose equipping an expedition next spring to solve the interesting problem as to the existence of open water around the north axis of our globe. The discoveries of Kane and Hayes show beyond all doubt that the western shore of Smith Sound extends to the northward for a considerable distance, pointing to the conclusion that the land trends in the direction of the Pole. Hayes further conceives that beyond Cape Constitution the Greenland Continent terminates, and that open water exists from this termination to the Pole. Thus, Smith Sound is one of the best, if not the best,

starting-points for North Polar exploration; and as the Americans have the credit of pointing this out, it strengthens the probability that they will endeavour to crown this by the solution of the above problem. Besides this probable American expedition, Germany and Sweden will make renewed attempts next summer to reach the North Pole; and thus, unless England stirs in this matter, it is greatly to be apprehended that her flag will not be the first to wave in that interesting locality. Such a shortcoming on our part would be the more to be regretted, because the record of Arctic exploration runs like "a bright silver thread" through the history of our maritime enterprise. To sail to the North Pole has long been a favourite scheme of our Arctic heroes. In 1527, Thorne strongly urged Henry the Eighth to patronize such an expedition, and Hudson, it will be remembered, made two daring attempts to reach the North Pole.

Apart from the great interest attending such an expedition, the scientific results would be highly important. Nor should it be forgotten that we possess great advantages for such an undertaking. The experience gained by our numerous Arctic expeditions is so much available capital, which only requires to be prudently invested to yield high interest. We hope the Government will take this matter up. Our Navy can win laurels in the service of science as well as in battle; and here is a great prize within its grasp, which, if we are not energetic, will assuredly be snatched by another nation.

ROSSINI.

November 28, 1868.

I hope not to be considered as one taking a sudden advantage of the death of Rossini if I announce my intention of attempting his biography with reference to his art. This project has been present to me for more years than it is now amusing for me to count. My admiration of his genius has been indicated in every work or paragraph on the subject which I have deliberately, or hour by hour, offered to the public. Some courage (or impetuosity, it may be thought) was required on the part of an untired man to write what I wrote, some thirty years ago, in comparison of Rossini's operas with those of Mozart. I merely revert to the fact as a proof that I have never wavered in my judgment; still less, that I am now wishing to make instant capital out of a great man's memory.

Should this announcement be received with any sympathy, I shall be only too grateful for any assistance in the shape of material confided to me. In case I do not live to carry out my purpose, I will take due care that every communication shall be returned to its writer or contributor.

HENRY F. CHORLEY.

NURSERY REFORM.

November 30, 1868.

As one of the promoters of the plan, I beg to thank you for the paragraph in which you speak favourably of the proposal for employing a superior class of persons as "nursery superintendents." It is a step likely to prove of such great social importance, that I venture to ask you to allow me to explain one or two points connected with the subject, not yet sufficiently understood.

The advocates of the plan foresaw some difficulties in the way of its speedy popularity; for, besides the well-known attachment—or rather tenacity—with which the English mind clings to old systems, in many cases simply from a chronic dislike to change, there are some prejudices of another kind in this matter to be overcome. For instance, a little very natural pride has to be tenderly dealt with, in those gentlemen to whom we are offering a position, which is generally regarded—as you have viewed it—in the light of an inferior vocation. The mistake, I think, may be explained by the fact that the duties which are involved in the charge of young children have not been appreciated to the extent which their importance demands; thus, mothers thoughtlessly entrust their nursery affairs to persons wholly incompetent for such a responsible post. The result is, that the

capacity of nurse has become degraded in the eyes of the world, and it is not surprising that gentlemen seeking employment hesitate to adopt the designation of "nurse," although they would be willing to accept the post if it could be raised in public estimation to its proper level, as one of the most important and dignified in the household.

The title is really of little consequence, if only it be distinguished from that which has been hitherto associated with the idea of a servant. I certainly fail to see the reason of the objection which you appear to attach to the title that has been suggested, viz. "lady superintendent"; it accurately describes the capacity and the status of the individual indicated. Perhaps "lady assistant" would answer the purpose as well—meaning one who would assist the mother in prosecuting her duties, and therefore not to be classed with the domestics.

It should be clearly understood that the object and intention of such a person being placed at the head of the nursery department, include the idea of efficient superintendence over the duties, rather than the actual performance of them. At the same time, there are many little offices, light, womanly—and certainly they do not come within the meaning of that much misapplied word "menial"—that can be better done by an educated hand, and which no mother, worthy of the name, in whatever rank of life, would object, if she had the time, to perform for her own children.

If you could afford space, which I cannot ask, for the further discussion of this subject, I might attempt to show that the task of tending little children—that is to say, protecting, developing, training the moral and physical being—is of the first and highest importance in determining the future characteristics of the individual. It is a task which is certainly not second to that of the Governor, who chiefly confines her teaching to intellectual subjects, and who receives her pupils into the school-room from the nursery, where the seeds of good or evil are sown, and where the "education," of whatever kind, really begins which stamps the individual mentally and bodily, leaving an impress which no after-training can totally efface.

M. A. B.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.

Temple, Nov. 30, 1868.

THOUGH I think your reviewer has done my book and me great injustice, it is not for that reason, nor merely on my own account, that I venture to ask your insertion of a few lines from me. It would be a misfortune to the profession and the public if it were supposed that there was a single member of the profession who could permit himself to publish general reflections on the judicial ability, or any serious imputations upon the judicial character, of the Lord Chief Justice. And it certainly was not my intention to do so; though a selection of expressions, torn from the context to which they respectively belong, might naturally induce such an impression. The context, in every instance, shows that I was speaking, not only of a charge on a particular case, but on one or two particular passages in the course of that charge. Indeed, the strongest expressions are applied only to one passage: making a severe charge against Mr. Eyre; which I feel certain the Lord Chief Justice made under some misconception, and which certainly was extra-judicial. The expressions used by me may certainly seem strong, taken by themselves (inspired, as they were, by a deep feeling of injustice); but taken by themselves, they convey quite a wrong impression of the animus with which they were written; and numerous passages attest that I only intended to speak strongly of the injustice done by a particular passage, and not to convey any imputation upon the general judicial character or qualities of the Lord Chief Justice—of which, in this very work, I have written, again and again, most highly. And not only have I nowhere imputed any intentional injustice to the Lord Chief Justice, but I have repeatedly disclaimed such an imputation: meaning no more than that injustice was done, in some particular observations. Any expression apparently going beyond that certainly goes beyond my intention and meaning; and I have a strong impression

that the candour of the Lord Chief Justice himself would lead him to put a more fair construction upon the scope and spirit of my remarks, as a whole, than your reviewer would suggest. He conveys the idea that the book is nothing more than an answer to the Charge of the Lord Chief Justice; whereas that forms only a sixth part of it. On the other hand, to have omitted a full and adequate notice of that, the most important feature in the events of my History, would indeed have been an anomaly. And if I ventured to impugn the view taken by the Lord Chief Justice, it was due to him not to do so without a full and elaborate examination of his most eloquent and able Charge. In conclusion, I gladly avail myself of the opportunity thus afforded me of disclaiming any intention to write disrespectfully of the Lord Chief Justice, or to make any imputations upon his judicial character. I desire to add, that your reviewer is in error in stating that I applied the word calumniator to the associates of Mr. Mill or the Jamaica Committee. I only applied it to one or two persons who "reviled Mr. Eyre as murderer." I have spoken with every respect of Mr. Mill and his associates.

W. F. FINLASON, Author of the 'History of the Jamaica Case.'

* * We gladly offer Mr. Finlason the opportunity which he seeks of retreating from a false position. But he must pardon us for seeing that his retreat is a retreat. First, as to the Lord Chief Justice. Mr. Finlason wrote in his book, in reference to the case of Ceylon, p. 511: "How singular the omission! How significant! Significant of a secret sense or consciousness of the enormous injustice of holding up Mr. Eyre to obloquy." Next, as to Mr. Mill and his associates, Mr. Finlason wrote in his book, p. 307: "The real object was not what was avowed, and was pursued by means which were unfair and unjust." Again, p. 310: "After a governor has saved a colony from massacre, and is then reviled by shameless calumniators as a murderer . . ." Odd phrases of respect!

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

At the meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society, to be held on Friday, the 11th of December, the Astronomer Royal will read a paper 'On the preparatory Arrangements which will be necessary for efficient Observation of the Transits of Venus in the years 1874 and 1882.'

The Council of the Royal Society for the coming year were elected at the Anniversary meeting on Monday last, as follows—*President*, Lieut.-General E. Sabine, R.A.; *Treasurer*, W. A. Miller, M.D., *Secretaries*, W. Sharpey, M.D., and G. G. Stokes, Esq., M.A., *Foreign Secretary*, Prof. W. H. Miller, M.A.; *Other Members of the Council*, F. A. Abel, Sir B. C. Brodie, Bart., W. B. Carpenter, M.D., J. Lockhart Clarke, F. Currey, Esq., Warren De La Rue, Esq., Sir W. Ferguson, Bart., W. H. Flower, Capt. D. Galton, C.B., J. P. Gassiot, Esq., J. Hawkshaw, Esq., J. Marshall, Esq., J. Prestwich, Esq., G. H. Richards, Capt. R.N., A. Smith, Esq. M.A., and Lieut.-Col. A. Strange.

This year the Royal Society have found the medal-deservers, with one exception, within their own body. At the head of the list of awards made by the Council stands Sir Charles Wheatstone for the Copley Medal—an award which cannot fail to command general approval. It is not the first time that Sir Charles's merits have been recognized by the Society: they gave him one of their Royal Medals in 1840; and there are few who, remembering all that he has done for science in the subsequent twenty-eight years, will question the present bestowal of the highest medallic distinction in the Society's trust. In the dry, brief words of the official phrase, the Copley Medal has been given for "researches in acoustics, optics, electricity and magnetism"; but how much of scientific labour and achievement of high quality do these few words represent! Gifted with a remarkable inventive genius, Sir Charles Wheatstone has produced instrument after instrument in such numbers, that a mere list of them would be a long one. Some are for determining the constants of a voltaic circuit: the rheostat, the chronoscope, the electro-magnetic clock; the speaking machine, the "Wheatstone's

bridge," or differential resistance measurer, indispensable wherever the resistance of telegraph wires or cables has to be measured, or electromotive forces determined; and all that variety of instruments which, since the first experiments in 1839, have been devised for the transmission of telegrams, down to dial-telegraph working without any clock-power, and the "high-speed telegraph," in which, to quote general Sabine's words, "the messages, previously prepared on slips of paper, are, by passing through a very small machine, constructed somewhat on the principle of the Jacquard loom, made to print the messages at the remote station, in the ordinary telegraphic characters, with a rapidity unattainable by the hand of an operator."

One of the Royal Medals was awarded to the Rev. Dr. Salmon, D.D., Regius Professor of Mathematics in Trinity College, Dublin, for his researches in analytical Geometry and the Theory of Surfaces; and the other to Mr. A. R. Wallace, an eminent traveller and zoologist, in recognition of the value of his many contributions to theoretical and practical Zoology, among which his discussion of the conditions which have determined the distribution of animals in the Malay archipelago occupies a prominent place. The question briefly put, runs thus:—The strait separating the islands of Baly and Lombok is fifteen miles wide only; nevertheless, the animal inhabitants of the islands are widely different, the Fauna of the western island being substantially Indian, that of the eastern as distinctly Australian. This Mr. Wallace has described and discussed more completely and definitely than any previous observer. Moreover, in a noteworthy paper, published in the *Proceedings of the Linnean Society*, 'On the Tendency of Varieties to Depart from the Original Type,' he has set forth the doctrine of natural selection, which, while travelling in the Malay archipelago, he had developed independently of Mr. Darwin. Apart from which it was the immediate cause of the publication of the 'Origin of Species.'

The Rumford Medal was given to Dr. Balfour Stewart, of the Kew Observatory, for his researches on the qualitative as well as quantitative relation between the emissive and absorptive powers of bodies for heat and light—an award which worthily fulfils the intentions of the founder of the Medal, whose statue adorns the Maximilian Strasse at Munich.

Mr. T. Duffus Hardy has pointed out to the Early English Text Society an earlier and better copy of the curious 'Rule of the Moon' than was down in their list for their book on Superstitions. This copy contains all the thirty days of the month, though it has not the Prologue of the other less complete copies. It occurs in the Harleian MS. 3725, but is not noticed in the printed Catalogue of the MSS., which states only that the MS. contains—*"1. Chronica de Hayles et Aberconwey. 2. Registrum Cartarum Monasterii S. Marie de Aberconwey."* This find is only one of a thousand services for which manuscript men are indebted to the Deputy-Keeper of the Rolls.

A new librarian of the Pepys Collections at Magdalen College, Cambridge, has been appointed, Mr. Patrick; and the College has resolved that Mr. William Chappell, on behalf of the Ballad Society, may collate with the Pepys copies all such ballads as are in other collections; but that before any unique copies are reprinted, special leave must be obtained from the governing body of the College. We are likely thus to see some of Pepys's gatherings in a new type; but we must still protest against the notion of any corporate body saying to any man or society, of any part of our literature, you shall not reprint it. This position no college has any right to take up, more than a university or the Trustees of the British Museum. The Common Law is the power to settle what may or may not be published. Pepys, we may be sure, did not leave his books and manuscripts to Magdalen in order to prevent their being made accessible.

Great changes are in contemplation in regard to the Ordnance Select Committee, and the manufacturing departments at Woolwich. It is proposed to abolish the former altogether, and place the

latter under one head, who will be at the same time Director General of Ordnance and Commandant of the Arsenal, where, as well as at the War Department, he will have an office. An Assistant Director General, and a Deputy Assistant, will take the place of the present Assistant Director of Ordnance, and Secretary of the Select Committee. Two Assistant Directors will be on the establishment at Woolwich, and two of the members of the late Ordnance Select Committee and one associate member will be associated to the Ordnance Department of the War Office. It is supposed that there will be increased economy and efficiency; but the Ordnance Select Committee has done a great deal of very honest work.

Mr. Maidment has a volume of Scotch Pasquils in the press, which will be published by Mr. Paterson, of Edinburgh, uniformly with the same editor's two volumes of 'Ballads.'

The new volume of Baron Tauchnitz's German Series will contain a translation, by Mary Howitt, of the novel by Hackländer, Handel und Wandel. It is entitled 'Behind the Counter.'

The elevation of Mrs. Disraeli to the peerage, as Viscountess Beaconsfield, reminds us of other ladies whose merits have won for them similar honour. Some of the examples are not without singularity. Lady Bryan was made a Baroness by Henry the Eighth, at the birth of Princess Mary. In 1629, the wife of Chief Justice Richardson was created Countess of Cramond, with remainder not to heirs of that name, but to the children of her first husband, Sir John Ashburton, by his former wife! The husseys of Charles the Second and George the First, who were made peeresses, are hardly worth mentioning. Lady Castlemaine was made Duchess of Cleveland; Mdlle. De Querouaille was made Duchess of Portsmouth, but only for her life. It is said that Nell Gwynne was about to be made Countess of Greenwich. Duchess of Kendall was one of the many titles conferred on Madame de Schuylberg. The widow of Sir Ralph Abercrombie was created Baroness Abercrombie. The widow of Mr. Canning was raised to the rank of Viscountess. The wife of Sir John Campbell was made Baroness Stratheden, but their son elected to be summoned to the peerage, after his father's death, by the title to which his father had attained,—Lord Campbell. The most singular case of all was that of Miss Wykeham, to whom the Duke of Clarence made an offer of marriage, and was refused. On his becoming William the Fourth he showed a gallant respect for the lady by raising her to the dignity of Baroness Wenman, which she still enjoys. Ladies have had other titles than those belonging to the peerage granted them. In 1635, for instance, Mrs. Bolles was created a *Baroness*, and became Lady Bolles accordingly. We may add, that the mother of George Villiers, first Duke of Buckingham, was, in 1618, made Countess of Buckingham for life.

Sir Bernard Burke has been made a Companion of the Order of the Bath,—a compliment paid to heraldic literature.

Mr. Samuel Lucas, author of 'Secularia' and some fugitive pieces, died early this week, at Eastbourne, in his fiftieth year.

The Duke of Largues, Constable of France, is said to have gained the favour of Louis the Thirteenth by training up singing-birds for the King. Rossini, more potent than the Constable of France, bewitched even his tailor, in those days when he spent his afternoons at Trouville, playing cards with the Duke Pasquier. To this day his Trouville tailor proudly bears over his door-way—"Tailor to Rossini!" Was ever greater honour paid to genius?

University College has given notice of application to Parliament for an Act which will effect an important change in its constitution. These programmes are always rather indefinite, but so far as can be judged, the intent seems to be to convert the institution from a body of shareholders into a body of governors with no pecuniary rights. All the world knows that the College never paid a dividend; and it seems that the possible dividend—the chance of which is not worth a farthing—and the government by shareholders alone, put difficulties in the way of introducing other good ele-

ments of administration. Hitherto the only way of bringing a distinguished student into permanent connexion with his college has been to give him a lapsed share, and call him a Fellow. More effective powers of this kind will be given. But we see with some surprise that it is proposed not to honour any old students except those who graduate in the University of London, which has long ago cast off all connexion with all colleges. Why is this? Why should not a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge be eligible, if his career at the college has been a distinguished success? Surely this should be thought of again.

To the list of year-books already announced we must add 'Osborne's Midland Counties Farmers' Almanac,'—'Old Moore's Royal Almanac,' with the Voices of the Stars,—the 'Commercial and Domestic Diary and Handbook of Engagements and Events,'—and 'The Atlantic Almanac,' an illustrated annual published in Boston.

The Royal Commission on Military Education will resume its sittings next week, and is expected to take evidence at the Royal Military Academy.

The controversy about the Hodgson MSS. has set a Correspondent thinking about Bryan Hodgson, his MSS., and what he is; the more particularly as Hodgson, an Englishman and Bengal civil servant, appears to be better known and appreciated in France than in England. In France he figures as a Knight of the Legion of Honour and a Member of the Institute, but it is not shown that he has ever received any equivalent honours at home. Our Correspondent finds, further, that to the French Government Hodgson gave his large collection of Tibetan and Buddhist MSS., and that he lent his collection of linguistic and ethnological MSS. to the Indian Home Government. The French, it appears, have turned their talent to account, and the French savants have been laboriously at work. Our talent remained in its napkin; and it is now in question whether Mr. Hunter ought to have taken it out. The contrast between the conduct of the French Government and our own is a strong one, and not casual; but it is not favourable to our mode of dealing with men of science. It appears that Mr. Hodgson, a man of high standing in our own service, was employed on the Tibetan mission, and that, profiting by opportunities, he assiduously devoted himself to the study of the physical and linguistic characteristics of the Tibetan and other hill tribes of India. This was not done in any superficial manner. He not only collected vocabularies, but he constructed grammars, which are rich treasures of comparative grammar. Beyond this, he worked out the whole matter practically and politically; the utilization of the tribes and their countries; the trade with Tibet and Central Asia; the settlement by Europeans of Darjeeling and other hill countries; the spread of the tea cultivation, all matters deeply affecting the permanent upholding of our sway in India. This policy has latterly taken the shape of developing the eighty millions of our non-Aryan subjects in India, as a means of balancing the Hindoos and Mussulmans.

Mr. Charles Lee, architect of Her Majesty's Theatre, wishes to state in these columns—in contradiction of a report which appeared in two or three papers—that ample funds were provided to rebuild the theatre by Earl Dudley and the insurance offices before the works were commenced.

The Rev. H. N. Grimley, writing under a misapprehension, urges, "I do ask you to correct the mistake that I have asked the Skipton public to provide school-premises for myself." Of course it was not our intention to represent that Mr. Grimley was asking for the fee-simple of a new school-house.

The Swedish Arctic expedition is not wintering in the polar ice, but has returned to Tromsø, and probably, by this time, to Stockholm. As we mentioned a few weeks since, the steamer, after taking in a fresh supply of coal at Amsterdam Island, started again for the north in the middle of September, which, considering the lateness of the season, may be regarded as adventurous. The party intended to put in at Seven Islands, but were prevented nearing the shore by accumulation of ice, and had to keep the sea, which was unusually

stormy. On the 19th of September, in long. 17½° east, and lat. 81° 42' north, their further progress northwards was stopped by unbroken ice stretching farther than eye could see, and they have brought home evidence of the fact in a photograph. They coasted the ice for some days, noticing in places that it was sprinkled with earth, from which they inferred the existence of land in the north. They returned once more to the coal depôt, and made a fresh attempt to enter the ice, but the ship, driven against a huge hummock, sprung a leak, and was with difficulty kept afloat till she made the land, and underwent temporary repair. Then an examination of the waters around the south of Spitzbergen was attempted, but new ice was everywhere forming, and in blowing weather ice accumulated so thickly on the ship from the frozen spray and the washing of the waves, that all further attempts at exploration had to be abandoned, and on the 19th of October the party anchored at Tromsø. In a letter, which was read at the evening meeting of the Royal Society last week, Prof. Nordenskiöld stated, in addition to the foregoing particulars, that valuable observations on currents, and on the depth and temperature of the sea, had been made, and would be shown on a map; that natural history and geology had been well cared for, as the results when published would show; that the party, from what they saw, came to the conclusion that "the idea of an open and comparatively milder polar basin is quite chimerical." We understand that the letter will be published at length in the *Proceedings* of the Society.

At the request of the German Gymnastic Society, which has a capacious Hall and Club-room, at 30, Stainton Terrace, King's Cross, Mr. Karl Blind gave a lecture a few days ago 'On the Ancient Free Cities of Germany and the Reformation Movement.' It was the introductory discourse to a series of lectures to be given this winter by different members of the society.

A foreign reader, desiring information about the 'Memoirs of Talleyrand,' writes: 'In May or June last the attention of the public was drawn to the announcement, that the long-expected 'Memoirs of Talleyrand' were at last to make their appearance. The intelligence came from a well-informed source, and was corroborated by the will of the illustrious statesman, which stipulates that the 'Mémoires' shall be published thirty years after the day of his death, occurring in May, 1838. Now we are at the end of the year, and still no publication whatever takes place. Where are those 'Mémoires,' and is there any chance of their being edited?'

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES BY THE MEMBERS IS NOW OPEN. 5, Pall Mall East. Ten till Five.—Admission, 1s. Gas on dark days.

WILLIAM CALLOW, Secretary.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES BY BRITISH AND FOREIGN ARTISTS IS NOW OPEN at the French Gallery, 120, Pall Mall, from Half-past Nine till Half-past Five o'clock.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES IN OIL.—Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—The Exhibition is OPEN Daily from Ten till Five.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogues, 6d.

GEORGE L. HALL, Hon. Sec.

PICTURES AND WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS of the British and Foreign Schools of Painting selected with great care from the Studios of the different Artists. In calling attention to these, T. M'Lean has great satisfaction in soliciting a visit from Collectors and others to inspect them.—T. M'LEAN'S NEW GALLERY, 7, Haymarket, next the Theatre.

MR. MOREY'S COLLECTION OF MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES IS ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange Fine Arts Gallery, 54, Cornhill. This Collection contains examples of Rosa Bonheur—Clarkson Stanfield, R.A.—Meissonier—Alma-Tadema—Gérôme—Frère—Laudelle—F. Paed, R.A.—John Phillip, R.A.—Leslie, R.A.—D. Roberts, R.A.—Frith, R.A.—Goodall, R.A.—Cooke, R.A.—Pickersill, R.A.—Erskine Nicol, A.R.A.—Le Jeune, A.R.A.—Ansell, A.R.A.—Frost, A.R.A.—Pettie, A.R.A.—Yeames, A.R.A.—Dobson, A.R.A.—Cooper, A.R.A.—Gale—Marks—Liddendale—George Smith—Linnell, sen.—Peter Graham—Onkes—H. W. E. Davis—Baxter. Also Drawings by Hunt, Cox, Birket Foster, Duncan, Topham, F. Walker, E. Warren, &c.—Admission on presentation of address card.

SCIENCE

SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—Nov. 25.—Prof. T. H. Huxley, LL.D., President, in the chair.—The following communications were read:—'On Floods in the Island of Bequia,' by Mr. G. M. Browne,—'De-

scription of Nga Tutura, an Extinct Volcano in New Zealand,' by Capt. F. W. Hutton,—'On Dakosaurus,' by Mr. J. W. Mason,—'On the Anatomy of the test of *Amphidetus* (*Echinocardium*) *Virginianus*, Forbes; and on the genus *Breyuia*,' by Mr. P. M. Duncan.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Nov. 25.—Dr. E. Hamilton, V.P., in the chair.—The Secretary called the attention of the meeting to the recent additions to the Society's menagerie, amongst which were a female Aurochs, received in exchange from the Zoological Gardens, Amsterdam; a Macaque, deposited by Major C. Richards, of the Bengal Staff Corps, and believed to be the *Macacus Assamensis* of M'Clelland; a pair of the White American Crane (*Grus Americana*).—Dr. C. Semper communicated some remarks on Macrobrachium, a proposed new genus of crustaceans.—Mr. A. G. Butler read a monographic revision of the lepidoptera hitherto included in the genus *Adolias*, with descriptions of some new genera and species.—A communication was read from Messrs. Selater and Salvin on Peruvian birds collected by Mr. Whitely in the vicinity of Arequipa, in Western Peru. To this were added some remarks on the peculiar features of the Avi-Fauna of the district.—Mr. Selater read descriptions of six new or little-known species of birds of the family of Formicariidae, from specimens in his own collection.—Mr. R. B. Sharpe read a paper on the kingfishers of the genus *Ceyx*, containing a revision of the known species of this group, which were stated to be ten in number, and made observations upon the geographical range of the different species.—Dr. Gray communicated some notes on Ceratillidae, a proposed new family of sea-anemones, which had the appearance of belonging to the sponges.

ETHNOLOGICAL.—Nov. 10.—Prof. Huxley, President, in the chair.—Dr. Hooker, the Hon. Col. Cholmondeley and the Rev. W. Greenwell were elected Members.—The papers read were by Dr. Blanc, one of the captives of Abyssinia, 'On the Abyssinians'; by Capt. Cole, 'On the Discovery of Cromlechs in India'; and by Lieut. Steel, 'On the Khassia Tribe.' The two latter, both of them containing curious accounts of the ancient cromlechs of India, which in some localities continue to be raised down to the present day, gave rise to a rather interesting discussion.

Nov. 24.—Prof. Huxley, President, in the chair.—W. S. Fitzwilliam, Esq., was elected a Member; and W. G. Falgrave, Esq., was elected an Honorary Fellow.—Consul Hutchinson read a paper 'On the Tehuelche Indians of Patagonia,' which gave rise to considerable discussion.—A paper followed, by Capt. L. Brine, R.N., 'On the Past and Present Inhabitants of the Cyrenaica.'

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Dec. 1.—C. H. Gregory, Esq., President, in the chair.—The following candidates had been admitted Students of the Institution: Messrs. R. Harrison, K. W. Hedges, F. de S. T. Homem, J. P. Maxwell, W. H. Read, and C. R. Western. The following candidates were elected:—as Members: Messrs. C. G. Blatchley, G. Broadrick, T. F. Brown, A. Cato, J. H. Hartwright, J. W. James, A. Roberts, R. Roberts, R. Watson, and G. Woodbridge; as Associates: Messrs. P. Bidder, jun., R. S. Brundell, F. C. Bullmore, T. P. Campbell, E. S. Currey, J. G. V. Dantas, F. G. Davis, Capt. W. M. Ducat, R.E., J. S. Farmer, H. A. Fisher, T. P. Gaskell, G. Harrison, J. T. Holgate, E. Lane, H. C. D. La Touche, E. A. Sacré, J. N. Smith, E. J. Statham, T. S. Tancred, H. A. Vivian, and W. Webster.—The paper read was 'Description of the River Witham and its Estuary, and of the various Works carried out in connexion therewith, for the Drainage of the Fens, and the improvement of the Navigation,' by Mr. W. H. Wheeler.

MATHEMATICAL.—Nov. 26.—Prof. Sylvester, V.P., in the chair.—Messrs. R. Abbay, G. Darwin, G. O. Hanlon, and T. B. Sprague, were elected Members; and F. E. Ramsay was proposed for election.—Mr. W. K. Clifford read a paper 'On a Generalization of the Theory of Polars'; and the

Chairman gave an account of 'Spirals whose Arcs and the Arcs of whose Pedals are Algebraically related.' The subject of this paper was connected with the author's papers in the *Philosophical Magazine* for October and December, and was illustrated by diagrams, which are given in the December number.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL.—Dec. 1.—Sir Duncan Gibb, Bart., V.P., in the chair.—The paper read was 'On the Claims of Women to Political Power,' by Mr. L. Owen Pike.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon.** Royal Institution, 2.—General Monthly Meeting.
—Entomological, 7.
—Society of Arts, 8.—'Aniline' (Cantor Lectures), Mr. Perkins.
Tues. Royal Academy, 8.—'Anatomy,' Mr. Partridge.
—Ethnological, 8.—'Westerly Drifting of Nomads,' Mr. Howorth; 'Flint Implements and Roman Remains,' Oxon, &c., Col. Lane Fox.
—Photographic, 8.
—Civil Engineers, 8.—'River Witham and Estuary.'
Wed. Society of Arts, 8.—'Drying Properties of House Paint,' Mr. Tomlinson.
—Archæological, 8.—'Planché's Earls of Gloucester,' Sir Stafford Carey; 'Stone Implements, Jamaica,' Lieut. Bell.
—Microscopical, 8.—'Mounting, &c. Animal Tissue,' Dr. Bastian.
—Geological, 8.—'Geological Reconnaissance, Arabia Petrea,'—'Sulphate of Strontia, Tertiary Rocks, Egypt,' Mr. Baerman; 'Basalt Dykes, India,' Mr. Clark; 'Glacier of Second Order in Quaternary Period,' Dr. Martins.
Thurs. Mathematical, 8.—'Correspondence of Points,' Mr. Cotterill; 'Dygonetes,' Mr. Smith.
—Royal, 8.
—Zoological, 8.—'Abyssinian Expedition Report,' Mr. Jesse; 'Indian Mammals, Capt. Hutton; Ornithology, Argentine Republic,' Dr. Burmeister; 'Tausiptera,' Mr. Sharpe.
Fri. Antiquaries, 8.—'British Round Barrows,' Dr. Thurnam.
—Astronomical, 8.—'Arrangements for Observation of Transits of Venus, 1874 and 1882,' Prof. Airy.

FINE ARTS

THE DEAD CHRIST.

THE authorities of the National Gallery have acquired a picture which is ascribed to Michael Angelo Buonarrotti. A few weeks since we briefly noted the acquisition of this picture, and stated that it would not be placed before the public until the removal of the Royal Academy from Trafalgar Square leaves room for its display, together with several large works which are now in the national collection. Although it will probably be spring before this exhibition takes place, our readers will not be sorry to receive an account of this remarkable addition to the English Art-treasures.

The subject of the painting is 'The Entombment of Christ.' It comprises seven figures, which are rather more than half the size of life, or, more exactly to write, three are so; for the work is in no respect finished. Two of this number of figures are in outline, mere white spaces on the panel; four are almost entire; the other is represented by a face, sketched shoulders and arms. The panel is what is called "upright,"—higher than it is wide. The background on the right represents a rocky eminence, with the tomb of Christ faintly indicated, two small figures, barely outlined, and a curving flight of steps retreating from the foot of the picture, where the chief figures are, to the tomb itself; also an horizon of low hills, a plain in the mid-distance, where the buildings of a town are indicated at the bottom of a cliff.

In the centre of the composition is the figure of the dead Christ, naked, and borne by three persons, as if backward from the spectator, and up the flight of steps we have mentioned as leading to the tomb which is seen upon the height. The oldest of the three bearers sustains the corpse by the shoulders, while its head rests against his breast. On each side of these stand two young men, who sustain their shares of the load by means of a strong bandage (which passes beneath the lower portion of the dead), and in diverse actions of high expressiveness and singular originality, is grasped by them at its ends; so that the weight and their reverent care are expressed with intensity of power such as Buonarrotti might well have employed upon a subject so effective as this. The notion of bearing the body of Christ in this peculiar manner, apart from the mode of expressing that idea, is truly Michaelangelesque. The composition employed with the figures, apart from the design proper, is such as strikes every one with its resemblance to that of the worker in the Sistine Chapel. The very

mode of arranging the lines of the arms in the impressive group of Christ and his bearers, no less than the telling and most original action of the man on the right, who, having his back to us, turns his head in a somewhat strenuous but very graceful manner to look upon the face of the corpse; also the long, firm, and yet undulating lines of this figure, the colouring of the completed draperies, which is very fine in a monumental way, all go with the character of the design to confirm the impression which so many experts admit themselves to share—that in this we have a veritable work of Buonarrotti's youth, ere he was so far free, as he at any time became, of that love for lengthiness in human forms which was derived from the studies of Ghirlandajo.

The idea conceived by the artist of this picture was of the grandest order: it was the thought of a master in youth. Such we suppose Michael Angelo to have been when he produced it. The work is that of a student in a painstaking, strenuous, and labour-loving school,—of a painter whose technical education had been in another mode of Art than that which was employed so ardently upon this panel. In fact, it looks like a sculptor's picture in composition, modelling, drawing and idea. A young sculptor would be likely to err where errors are obvious here, as in the defective foreshortening of the figures, which is such that it requires some consideration ere the whole of the noble design and the high merits of the other, and more properly technical, qualities of our subject are evolved and received by the spectator.

Finer modelling than that which appears upon the thorax, the abdomen and its tendinous bands, of the figure of Christ, in the pit of its throat, and the articulations of the knees, we never saw. Above all, this quality is in the treatment of that arm of the left-hand bearer which, pulling strenuously at the bandage, while its fellow arm with more than equal force binds it down athwart one of the bearer's thighs, goes finely with the sideway leaning of the whole frame to express at once the action of slowly lifting a considerable burthen, the carefulness with which this act is performed, and the weight of the object which is so heedfully borne. The outlining of this arm, with its starting tendons and bulky muscles in full play, the elaborate painting of the draperies,—see those on the breast of the female figure on the right of the picture; and last, but most important, the painting and conception of the unfinished face of Christ, are suggestive of Michael Angelo. The execution is thin, without *impasto*, and in the manner of fresco-painting; the picture has evidently been wrought part by part, like a fresco, each day's work by itself. The textures of the skin are rendered with marvellous care, whether it passes over the fleshy muscles or the relaxed tendons of the dead, or those which are strongly filled with life in the other figures, as well as where the bones are shown beneath. The lights of the flesh are solid, the shadows are brownish in the life, warm grey in the dead, and semi-transparent. In the figure of Christ, owing to the death-pallor, the flesh is almost in monochrome, not, however, a loathsome, clay-like tint, such as a common painter would produce.

We understand the history of this remarkable picture to be that it formed one of an immense number of paintings, of all kinds and qualities, which were deposited in the stores of that avid collector, Cardinal Fesch, and at his death that it was sold by auction for twenty or thirty scudi; re-sold at an advanced price, it came into the possession of Mr. Macpherson, of Rome, and was the subject of a lawsuit, in the course of which Cornelius was invoked as a witness to its value. For some time, owing to the restrictive policy of the Papal authorities, it remained concealed at Leghorn, when a Royal Academician called the attention of Mr. Boxall to its execution and extraordinary merits. Ultimately the National Gallery purchased it for 2,000*l*.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.

AN important meeting of Royal Academicians took place last week, and, for the first time, in the new premises at Burlington House, which are now

so far advanced as to leave no reasonable doubt about their being ready for the forthcoming Exhibition. The principal room in the new galleries was much admired by those present, not only on account of its architecture, but for the able manner in which the lighting has been managed. Equally excellent are the plans of the other chambers on the upper floor. Here will be ample accommodation for all branches of Art, and the rooms, unlike those of the formerly-used building, are to be distinctly appropriated to each department—oil and water-colour painting, architecture, engraving, &c. At the same meeting it was decided to afford the students of the Royal Academy the advantage of studying with the advice of the Associates as visitors, instead of, as hitherto, restricting the duties of the latter office to the R.A.s proper. The Library is to be greatly enlarged, and arranged on an improved system, so as to become a fine and accessible collection of the best works in all branches of Art-studies. It is to be opened to students external to the Royal Academy, so as to become generally available to all who wish to use it. With these enlarged views of the usefulness of this Library, it will be opened every evening. A Curator, or Assistant Librarian, is to be appointed to attend constantly. As to the hanging of pictures at the annual Exhibition, we understand that the dangerous so-called "crinoline line," or lowest row of pictures, will be abolished, and in its place the decorated wall of the room, of deep black and brown woods, will appear. Space will be allowed between the pictures, as they are to be hung on the new walls, so that their effects will not be destructive to each other, as often happened before. The height of the topmost row of paintings has not yet been decided on, but it is hoped it will be less than formerly. The planning of the galleries admits, as we have already pointed out when describing the design, of complete circulation on the part of visitors, so that the jostling and other annoyances, of which we all know so much, cannot well occur. We hope that liberal and gentlemanly arrangements will be made with regard to the admission of those who have to report for the public.

The Lectures on Sculpture will not be given at the Royal Academy this season.

The next evening of the Graphic Society, to be held on December 9, will be mainly given to a collection of the works of the late George Cattermole.

Our contemporary, the *Builder*, calls attention to the neglected state of the grave of Robert Hooke, which is without a mark in the churchyard of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate. Hooke was one of the most ardent and ingenious of our men of science in the latter half of the seventeenth century, who produced a considerable number of serviceable designs and machines, some of which are still in use. He was the friend of Boyle, Wren, Wilkins and others of the Royal Society, of which he was a founder-member, curator, and Cutler's Lecturer, also Professor of Geometry to Gresham College, and Surveyor after the Fire to the City of London.

What is being done with regard to the magnificent bequest of Mr. Slade towards the foundation and extension of Art-schools and studies? A considerable portion of the time allowed by the testator, after which his gift will, if unemployed, lapse to residuary legatees, has already passed, and we cannot learn that any definite conclusions have been arrived at by the learned bodies in whose hands the matter seems to rest. Two years from the date of Mr. Slade's death will elapse in vain if something is not done to the purpose. Surely the artists for whose benefit the bequest was made should bestir themselves and offer counsel to those who are trustees in this matter. We have reason to believe that the Council of University College, London, which share the trust, is more than willing to be advised about it by competent artists, and that a scheme has been drawn up by Mr. Field, as one of this body, with a view to discussion and settlement. Would it not be well for the Council in question, as well as other parties entrusted, to call a meeting of artists, and ascertain their opinions

as to the best mode of carrying out the objects of Mr. Slade?

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, Exeter Hall. Conductor, Mr. Costa.—The Annual Christmas Performance of Handel's Oratorio, 'MESSIAH,' on FRIDAY, December 11. Principal Vocalists: Madame Rudersdorf, Madame Salton-Dolby, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Signor Foli. Band and Chorus of 700 Performers.—Tickets, 3s., 6s., and 10s. 6d., now ready, at 6, Exeter Hall.

Note.—Country Visitors desirous of securing Tickets should at once send Post Office order or Cheque, payable to Mr. James Peck.

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, St. James's Hall.—On MONDAY EVENING next, December 7, the Programme will include Beethoven's Septett, for Stringed and Wind Instruments; Beethoven's Sonata in C Major, Op. 53, for Pianoforte alone; a Sonata by Corelli, for Violin alone, &c. Executants: M.M. J. F. Barnett, Straus, L. Riss, Henry Blagrove, Lazarus, C. Harper, Wotton, Reynolds, and Platt. Vocalist, Madame Salton-Dolby. Conductor, Mr. Benedict.—Sole Stalls, 3s.; Gallery, 2s.; Admission, 1s.—Programmes and Tickets at Chappell & Co.'s, 50, New Bond Street; Keith, Frowse & Co.'s, 43, Cheapside; and at Austin's, 25, Piccadilly.

CONCERTS.—It is characteristic of our strange way of dealing with Art, that while we refuse to recognize officially the claims of music, we have in our midst a party of trade-people who, moved thereto solely by the love of Art, have succeeded in organizing performances of sacred music unequalled in any other country. These shopkeepers, indifferent in this to all considerations of shop, have done for Handel more than the "great Saxon," as the Italians used to call him, was ever able to do for himself. He tried to tempt our ancestors to come and listen to his 'Israel in Egypt' by the announcement that the oratorio "would be shortened and intermixed with songs." But neither our great-grandfathers nor their descendants for three generations could be induced to admire, even in the most abbreviated and diversified form, the grand choral description of the Exodus. It was reserved for the Sacred Harmonic Society, in our own time, to restore the oratorio to its original shape, and to let dead Handel speak with the fullness which was denied to him in life. We were reminded of these things by the generally fine performance of Friday week, when the unparagoned choruses that tell in unbroken sequence the marvellous story of the plagues inflicted on the Egyptians, and of the deliverance of the people of Israel, were listened to with genuine interest by some two thousand persons. The facts are sufficiently patent, but nevertheless it is well that the public spirit of a society that does all for honour and nothing for profit, should be occasionally acknowledged. The principal solo singers at the performance in question were Madame Rudersdorf, Madame Salton-Dolby, Mr. Santley, Signor Foli and Mr. Vernon Rigby. The youthful voice of the last-named gentleman made itself felt in the *bravura* 'The enemy said'; but he is not yet at home in Handel's florid music, which requires as special a training and as facile a natural aptitude as that of Rossini.

At last Saturday's Crystal Palace Concert, 'The Mount of Olives,' Beethoven's only oratorio, was performed; and, on the whole, well. The work is now so seldom given that it is, we should imagine, worth repetition at Sydenham, especially as it would give the chorus-singers an opportunity of becoming familiar with the difficult music. At present the chorus is far inferior to Mr. Mann's excellent band. The solo singers of Saturday were, Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Mr. W. H. Cummings and Mr. Lewis Thomas. The programme included Mendelssohn's noble overture in C, which he himself distinguished by the descriptive epithet 'Trumpet.' To-day's concert is to be devoted to Rossini.

Schubert's perfectly admirable Oitett was repeated for the seventh time at the last Monday Popular Concert. The exquisite ideas that chase each other though this brilliant work fascinate on a first acquaintance, and yet they become more and more cherished the better they are known. The *scherzo* naturally delights a large audience most; but neither of the three other movements performed yields to it in beauty. It is regrettable that the work cannot be given complete. Surely Herr Spina, though he may not deem it desirable to publish the work in score, would not refuse a copy of the deficient movements—an *andante* with variations and

a minuet. The Oitett was admirably led by Herr Straus, and all the players concerned were efficient. Signor Piatti brought forward the graceful *andante* and the less attractive *rondo* written by Herr Molique for the Philharmonic Society, and Herr Pauer played Weber's *sonata* in a flat, the best of his unequal pianoforte works. The singer was Mr. Vernon Rigby. For Monday, Beethoven's Septett, the only really dangerous rival among works for combined wind and string to Schubert's Oitett, is announced.

Mr. Martin, at the first concert for the season of the National Choral Society, made a laudable attempt to break through the narrow limits prescribed by custom for our oratorio performances, by bringing out Dr. Sterndale Bennett's 'Woman of Samaria.' The attempt was worthy of all praise; but the performance was unsatisfactory. The orchestra was much too small for the chorus, and the different voices were out of all proportion with each other. The tenors and altos were too weak, the latter especially so; and the *soprano*, although numerically strong, were timid in attack. It was evident, in fact, that the music was throughout unfamiliar to the singers. And Mr. Martin increased the difficulties of his chorists by constantly taking liberties with the tempo. He succeeded in obtaining an admirable *pianissimo* at the conclusion of one or two choruses,—and for this rare phenomenon in choral singing we ought to be duly grateful; but even these effects were brought about in too sudden and tricky a manner, and the performance, as a whole, was fatally deficient in light and shade. Nor was he fortunate in his soloists. An apology, on the score of cold, was made for Mr. George Perren; but it seemed to be needed as much by Mr. Lewis Thomas. Miss Anna Jewell's voice is quite inadequate to the chief *soprano* part; and the only efficient member of the vocal quartett was Miss Lucy Franklin. It is quite worth this young lady's while to rid herself with all possible speed of the detestable *vibrato*, the sole blemish to her excellent singing. Like all truly musician-like works, 'The Woman of Samaria' gains in favour the more it is heard. Mr. Martin would do well to repeat the work before the end of the season, rehearsing it diligently meantime. His Wednesday's programme was made unduly long by a short selection from 'Acis and Galatea' and the entire 'Walpurgis Night.'

On the same evening was given the second of the 'New Musical Winter Evenings,' conducted by Mr. Henry Holmes and Signor Pezze. Besides a quartett by Haydn and Mendelssohn's in D, there was a clever *trio* by Mr. E. Silas for piano, violin and violoncello, in which the gentlemen above named were joined by the composer. Mr. Holmes also played two interesting violin movements of Tartini. The singer was Miss Watts, who must have been very well trained, for her style is unexceptionable.

NEW GLOBE THEATRE.—Another London theatre was opened on Saturday last. The new edifice occupies a portion of a site on which Lyon's Inn formerly stood. It bears the name once borne by the summer theatre of which Shakespeare was part proprietor, and which Ben Jonson, referring to its situation, called 'The Globe the glory of the Bank.' The new Globe Theatre is a well-constructed and comfortable little house, apparently a little larger than its immediate neighbour, the Olympic, and capable, we learn, of seating fifteen hundred people. One special advantage it possesses in having its dress circle and boxes on a level with the street; so that access is obtained to them without mounting or descending a step. Inside the theatre, the boxes and dress circle form a segment of a circle, and afford a comfortable view of the stage from every part. Light is obtained from a sun-light in the centre of a domed roof. Nothing in the decorations calls for special comment. They are new and bright, but not particularly harmonious in colour; the deep crimson of the curtains to the private boxes giving a faded look to the pink colouring which predominates in the paper used in the stalls and gallery. The drop-curtain is not that which was designed for the theatre. It has been lent by Mr. Buckstone; the original having perished

in a recent fire at the *atelier* of Messrs. Grieve & Telbin. Entrances are situated in Newcastle Street, close to the Strand, and in Wych Street.

The principal feature in the opening programme consisted of a comedy "of real life," by Mr. H. J. Byron. This bears the title of 'Cyril's Success,' a somewhat curious misnomer; the action being altogether concerned with Cyril's failures. Each recent piece by Mr. Byron has been an advance upon its predecessor. Still nothing in his previous career gave promise of his ability to write a work of the calibre of this. 'Cyril's Success' is a fresh and genuinely-amusing production. Its plot is simple and ingenious, though not profoundly original; its situations are novel, and its dialogue, though crude in parts and very unequal, has a true comic vein. In construction there is room for amendment. A compression of two acts into one at the commencement, which is easily managed,—the omission of what is technically called a "carpenter's scene" at the beginning of the fourth act,—and the condensation of the last act, with one or two unimportant alterations in the conduct of its "business,"—will effect a great improvement. On the whole, the characterization is the best feature in the piece. Both hero and heroine are thoroughly natural; and two or three of the subordinate characters, without being profound studies, present very effectively the features of well-known types of humanity. There is some pardonable exaggeration in the details—exaggeration which, in comedy, is difficult to avoid. Nice and subtle traits of character run a risk of being overlooked in the dialogue of comedy; and in using the broad splashes of colour by which effects are most easily obtained, an observance of exact limits is difficult. With certain reservations, 'Cyril's Success' may be pronounced a good, as it certainly is a clever, and successful work. In the third and fourth acts, its hold over the audience on the night of its first production was remarkable. Such frank and genuine applause as it elicited is more ordinarily awarded to the scene-painter than the author. Its theme is the love of a wife, which, "unknown and light esteemed" in days of prosperity, seems lost, but is regained in times of suffering and failure. Sir Walter Scott's often-quoted lines concerning woman in our hours of ease, and so forth, might almost stand as motto for it. Cyril Cuthbert, the hero, is a young and successful author. His occupations and a necessity to study life—so often pleaded as an excuse that he is almost convinced of its reality—conspire to keep him from his wife, in whose mind a feeling of dissatisfaction, not unmingled with mistrust, is aroused. This feeling is played upon, with no very honourable motive, by Major Treherne, and is strengthened by a general mistrust of mankind, inculcated by Mrs. Cuthbert's old schoolmistress, now a visitor in the house. A love-letter becomes the spark by which the inflammable materials prepared in the mind of Mrs. Cuthbert are fired. This letter, which is written by a Mrs. Singleton Bliss, is supposed to be addressed to Cyril Cuthbert. It really belongs to Major Treherne, by whom it has been lost. On its discovery, Mrs. Cuthbert, writing a few lines of indignant farewell to her husband, quits his house. A series of misinterpretations follow. Cyril believes his wife has eloped with Major Treherne. Mrs. Cuthbert, persuaded her husband has an intrigue with Mrs. Bliss, calls upon that lady, the result of her half-explanation being that Mrs. Bliss is convinced Major Treherne is married to Mrs. Cuthbert; while the Major makes up his mind that his expulsion from the widow's house is in some measure due to Cyril. The manner in which these mistakes are represented as originating is ingenious, though it is scarcely explained with sufficient clearness to the audience. After Cyril's desertion by his wifethings go amiss with him. He becomes reckless, and drinks so much, that his works bear traces of carelessness. He loses one or two important engagements. His great hope is in a new play he is about to produce. Here again he is disappointed. The play is a failure. After it is over Cyril, quarrelsome and more than half drunk, staggers into his club and meets Major Treherne. Both men have a belief they have cause of complaint against each other. Bitter words are followed by

a blow, and the blow by a duel which takes place abroad. On his return to London Cyril, ill and poor, finds his mind further distraught by the belief that he has killed his antagonist. A visit from his wife, who cannot unmoved hear of his sufferings, brings about a partial explanation, which the appearance of the Major, recovering from his wounds, renders complete, and the curtain drops upon a tableau of reconciliation. We have little fault to find with this plot or with the manner in which it is worked out. Flimsy the plot undoubtedly is, but it is well constructed and serves as a satisfactory framework for some amusing situations and some comic episodes. One concession to public taste is to be regretted. When after his wound Major Treherne appears in the chambers occupied by Cyril, instead of advancing at once with the explanations he brings, he stands speechless in a tragic attitude in the lime-light for a period that can scarcely be less than a minute, Cyril in the mean time taking him for a ghost. Here is a distinct violation of probability for the sake of a not very important or natural effect. More than one defect of the same nature is observable in the comedy. The dialogue is conducted by that antiphonal system with which in his recent comedies Mr. Robertson has familiarized us. Cyril is a well-drawn character. His meanness and want of self-control are cleverly depicted, and are of a kind that not seldom accompanies the sort of ability he is represented as possessing. His wife's jealousy is natural, and her action, though very decided, is not more rash than an impetuous woman acting under interested and bad advice would be likely to commit. Both these parts were satisfactorily played: the former by Mr. W. H. Vernon, an actor who displays talent in a class of parts of which at present our stage has lamentably few exponents; the latter by Miss Henrade. Major Treherne, a man who without being absolutely a villain, has only that modest amount of worth and virtue which is sufficient to keep up the character of a "decent fellow," was cleverly presented by Mr. David Fisher. Three or four eccentric characters employed in subordinate positions in the piece, were all good. Matthew Pincher, a literary hack, who, as his constant associates are men of rank and fashion, scarcely realizes Goldsmith's notion of the character, was well played by Mr. John Clarke. The rudeness and cynicism belonging to the character were effectively depicted by Mr. Clarke, whose make-up was good. A young gentleman, the Hon. Fred. Titeboy, fond of the society of literary men and actresses, was played with much spirit by a Miss Maggie Brennan, a lady new as yet to London, but of unmistakable talent. Mrs. Stephens acted a disagreeable and not quite natural part in a very satisfactory manner. Amusing representations of a hypocritical publisher and a manager of a theatre were given by Mr. Newbound and Mr. Andrews. The piece was a genuine success.

LYCEUM.—On his first appearance in London Mr. Bandmann created favourable impressions, which have not been confirmed by his subsequent performances. His acting as the Neveu de Rameau was temperate, unconventional, and not wanting in dramatic fire. It was good enough indeed to convince the more sanguine of his admirers of his ability to play Hamlet and other leading characters of Shakespearian drama. Since that time Mr. Bandmann has sunk in popular estimation. His acting in 'The Rightful Heir' was decidedly below the mark of his previous performance. It proved that however useful and intelligent an actor Mr. Bandmann might be within certain narrow and clearly defined limits, outside them he was inferior to many players whose talents commanded no special admiration. On Monday night, accordingly, when he made his first appearance in 'Othello,' a very moderate amount of curiosity was exhibited. The performance was a failure. Mr. Bandmann not only came short of grasping the character of Othello, whom he represented as a boisterous and blustering man, cringing in presence of his superiors, uxorious in his demeanor to his wife, and altogether without dignity or soldierly bearing, he proved clearly at the same

time that his powers as a tragic actor are very small. As with our own tragedians, noise, vehemence of gesture and grimace do duty for tragic intensity. Feeling, doubtless, to a certain extent, his deficiencies, Mr. Bandmann was determined to startle, if he could not please. In place of a careful or intelligent rendering of the part he gave us accordingly new readings, new points and new stage business, all of the most prosaic description. As a sample of the kind of alteration he made in accepted "business" the following may be taken. Addressing Montano, wounded in the brawl with Cassio, Othello says,

Sir, for your hurts, myself will be your surgeon.

Suiting the action to the word Mr. Bandmann takes off the light cloak he wears, revealing underneath the night apparel over which it was flung, and wraps it lightly around Montano's shoulder and wounded arm. Other scarcely less amusing instances of bathos might be cited. The entire impersonation, however, is weak and inadequate, and altogether unworthy of lengthened criticism. One service Mr. Bandmann has rendered. He has restored suppressed phrases of Shakespeare, and has omitted those absurd alterations of words which stage prudery first dictated and stage carelessness or timidity has since prolonged. Mr. Fairclough played *Iago*, whom he represented as no patent villain but the blindest of Othello's or most fatuous of Roderigos could scarcely have been gulled by him. Dress, attitudes and movements were all those of Mephistophiles. As regards the delivery of the lines, Mr. Fairclough was passable in his temperate moments and deplorable the moment he warmed into vehemence. Miss Milly Palmer was *Desdemona* and Miss Atkinson *Emilia*. Other parts were acted or caricatured after approved fashion.

ROYALTY.—Mr. Halliday's new piece, 'The Loving Cup,' produced at the New Royalty Theatre, is rather a satire in the shape of a play than a composition belonging to any known form of dramatic literature. It has scarcely a plot, and the little it possesses is taken from the 'Gazza Ladra,' with the substitution of an old woman for the magpie. A girl whose lover has gone to America takes upon herself the blame of a robbery he is supposed to have committed. Upon his return he finds the heroine out of her wits. A discovery of the real criminal restores her to reason and her lover to happiness. This is the story of the piece. Its interest is derived from the moralizings of a certain *Jack Easy*, a man who blends curiously together some of the attributes of the melancholy Jacques with others derived in part from Captain Costigan and in part from the famous beggar in 'Gil Blas.' The opinions of this worthy upon life from the stand-point of one who never gets farther from the pot-house than its adjacent garden are very diverting. This part is well supported by Mr. Dewar. A barmaid, played by Miss Oliver, is also an amusing character. To the laughter caused by these two personages the success of one of the flimsiest productions ever put on a stage must be attributed.

GIOACCHINO ROSSINI.

THE following list of Rossini's compositions, ranging between the years 1808 and 1868, transcribed from a French contemporary, is, probably, fairly correct:—'Il Pianto d'Armonia,' Cantata, —Symphony for Full Orchestra, —a Stringed Quartett, —'La Cambiale di Matrimonio,' Opera, —'L'Equivoco Stravagante,' Opera, —'Didone Abbandonata,' Cantata, —'Demetrio e Polibio,' Opera, —'L'Inganno Felice,' Opera, —'Ciro in Babilonia,' Opera, —'La Scala di Seta,' Opera, —'La Pietra del Paragone,' Opera, —'L'Occasione fa il Ladro,' Opera, —'Il Figlio per Azzardo,' Opera, —'Tancredi,' Opera, —'L'Italiana in Algeria,' Opera, —'L'Aureliano in Palmira,' Opera, —'Egle e Irene,' Cantata (MS.), —'Il Turco in Italia,' Opera, —'Elisabetta,' Opera, —'Torvaldo e Dorliiska,' Opera, —'Il Barbiere di Siviglia,' Opera, —'La Gazetta,' Opera, —'Otello,' Opera, —'Teti e Peleo,' Cantata, —'Cenerentola,' Opera, —'La Gazza Ladra,' Opera, —'Armida,' Opera, —'Ade-

laida di Borgogna,' Opera, —'Mosè,' Opera, —'Ricciardo e Zoraide,' Opera, —'Ermione,' Opera, —'Eduardo e Cristina,' Opera, —'La Donna del Lago,' Opera, —Cantata for the Birthday of the King of Naples, —'Bianca e Faliero,' Opera, —'Maometto the Second,' Opera, —Cantata for the Emperor of Austria, —'Matilda di Shabran,' Opera, —'La Riconoscenza,' Cantata, —'Zelmira,' Opera, —'Il Vero Omaggio,' Cantata, —'Semiramide,' Opera, —'Sigismondo,' Opera, —'Il Viaggio a Reims,' Opera, —(this, if I mistake not, was written on the occasion of the coronation of Charles the Tenth of France, and was executed by a galaxy of artists, such as it would be impossible to assemble in our days, were the Pitt or Pigot diamond tendered to pay them,) —'Le Siège de Corinthe,' Opera, —'Moise,' Opera, —'Le Comte Ory,' Opera, —'Guillaume Tell,' Opera, —Mass, —'Les Soirées Musicales,' —Four Italian Ariettes, —'Stabat Mater,' —'Faith, Hope, and Charity,' three choruses, —'Robert le Bruce' (a mere *pasticcio*), Opera, —Hymn of Pio Nono, —Music for the Universal Exhibition of 1867, —Funeral Mass.

Without, for the moment, attempting an elaborate character of so remarkable a genius as his, the growth and transforming power which Rossini's works written for France manifest cannot but be mentioned. What a change, for instance, did he make of his 'Maometto' when he reproduced it as 'Le Siège de Corinthe'! With what a new fire did he inspire his 'Moise' by the addition of that second *finale*—one of the most inspiring pieces of musical excitement in existence, only to be paralleled by the *finale* to Beethoven's *c minor* Symphony! What a subtle elegance and finish, from first to last, pervade his 'Comte Ory'! It was long the silly fashion of those vowed to what was thought profound in Music to speak of him as slight and empirical. Unequal he was, no doubt; but who is there, Beethoven perhaps excepted, that has not covered paper, more or less, with what may be called "furniture music"? His is a fame which may be safely left to the future—to be brightened by every comparison with that of any new comer who may take up the theatrical sceptre wielded by him with the negligence of conscious royalty.

It is not easy to characterize Rossini as a man. If viewed on one side, he must appear frivolous, insincere—an artist who mocked at his own art and at all professing it,—he had too small hesitation in giving the most exaggerated testimonials to the most mediocre persons, little caring whom or what he compromised in so doing. Not very old subscribers to our Philharmonic Concerts cannot have forgotten the disastrous appearance made there, some years ago, by a certain Madame Ortensia Maillard, who was engaged unheard, on the strength of a first-class certificate addressed to Mr. Costa by the *Maestro*. Nor is hers the sole example of his levity in commending what was utterly worthless, which could be charged against Rossini. The heap of letters of introduction from his pen (and the pen was a cunning one; most graceful in letter-writing), which could be collected, will form as curious a volume of correspondence as is contained in the Cynic's library. And yet it would not be wholly fair to accuse Rossini of universal hypocrisy. If he allowed himself to fool the charlatan and the ignoramus—too unscrupulously, no doubt—he had a large heart, and a corner in it of substantial respect, admiration and recognition for everything that was genuine and had real worth and promise. No one could commend with greater unction masters of his art in every respect widely differing from himself,—as, for instance, Mendelssohn; and among the writer's most genial recollections is the acute yet indulgent care and minute interest which he bestowed on the manuscripts of our most promising English composer, Mr. Sullivan, when they were submitted to his notice. The weak points of these were touched with the quickness of lightning, but without an iota of asperity; the good ones were dwelt on with a sympathy and intelligence which should be precious as a memory and an encouragement so long as life shall last. Rossini could be biting with his tongue. Disconcerted, it may be, by the cold reception of his 'Guillaume Tell' on its production, it has been said, that when he was pressed to enrich the Grand Opéra with

another work, he replied, "I will wait till the Jews' Sabbath is over,"—in sarcasm at Meyerbeer and Halévy. The latter, by the way, having had less careless discernment of the value of dramatic subjects than the great Italian, grasped at the book of 'La Juive,' which the Pesarese had refused. But who, except such a miserable pedant as cannot laugh or cannot bear to be laughed at, cares for or counts as an offence a repartee or a sharp saying? There is a spirit of mirth totally distinct from ill-nature, which, like murder, "will out"; and Rossini possessed this in excess. The humorists who, like Sydney Smith, can temper this with exquisite and cordial consideration for every victim's feelings, are like the aloe, which flowers once in a hundred years or so. It is most unwise for a man to trifle with his own strength by jesting with the weakness of others; but that Rossini had force and sincerity to put forth, when he willed it, such as few men in his art have possessed in like measure, can no more be doubted than "that the sun is fire" (as the world's poet hath it); and the honour must be paid to these noble qualities in proportion as the clear truth must be spoken of the occasional frivolity which, no doubt, tarnished them. He could be as unjust, no doubt, as every gifted man has been and will be, till

Music shall untune the sky.

It is said that he was grudging in admission of the grandeur and pathos and splendidly-measured vocal enthusiasm of Pasta,—even in his 'Tancredi,'—even in his 'Semiramide.' "She always sang false," he would say. Yet Pasta's false intonation was better than every successor's truth. Of another artist, the great northern meteor of our opera-world, who sang to him, (who did not aspire to sing to Rossini?) he said, "Elle a une très-longue respiration." "What would you?" as Goldsmith's *Mrs. Quickly* hath it. Rossini was a spoiled self-educated man; endowed with that consciousness of innate power which every man of genius must, and will, and *should* possess, let him mask it ever so simply under airs of mock modesty, or ever so severely under a judicial and forbidding aspect. He was both *gourmet* and *gourmand*. It has been said that he invented dishes and composed sauces with his noble musical hands. He entertained a holy horror of railroads; and, if I mistake not, when he finally changed his home from Italy to Paris, dragged along the weary road in a travelling carriage, in place of using the new means for "annihilating time and space." He was amusingly superstitious—feared thirteen as a number and Friday as a day of the week;—and he died on Friday, the 13th of November. His testamentary dispositions were dignified and simple; in this unlike those of Meyerbeer, who was tortured, it may be recollected, with the terror of premature interment, and whose flaring funeral obsequies are not forgotten in Paris. He is said to have expressly provided that he should be buried at a modest cost in the Cemetery of Père La Chaise; and his wishes were carried out by the avoidance of false, ghastly parade. But no man of celebrity was ever attended to his last resting-place with greater honour. A funeral mass was sung over his coffin in the Church de la Trinité (not La Madeleine) by the best of the best French and Italian singers in Paris; and the names of those who relieved one another as pall-bearers would fill a page in that Golden Book of Music where great reputations are registered and attested, never to be forgotten. M. Auber, as the oldest and best living composer,—the one last man of a great generation,—attended his only rival to the tomb.

Rossini's large fortune, it is said, is left to his widow during her lifetime; after her death, it is to revert to his birthplace, Pesaro, with the purpose of founding a music-school there. But he has honourably remembered his death-place, Paris, by leaving to the Institut capital necessary to provide two annual prizes of 3,000 francs each: one for the best opera-book, one for the best score to the same; only it is expressly stipulated that the composer shall be a melodist. Such a protest against the trashy transcendentalism of our time as this bequest is worth its weight in double the gold of the yearly income.

The above paragraphs are merely so many dis-

connected outlines, but their subject is one not soon to be exhausted; and the fillings-up of such a fragmentary sketch as the above are already perplexing by reason of their number and variety.

H. F. C.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

THE winter season of Italian Opera was brought to a conclusion on Monday, with selections from five different operas. The only noticeable thing about the long evening's trying diversion was the fine singing of Mr. Santley, in the scene from 'I Due Foscari.' Nothing more admirable in every respect has been heard on our stage for very long. If there must be occasional "combined entertainments" they should at all events be signaled by a selection from some work which has fallen out of the regular *répertoire*. It is to be hoped that the marked success of the winter performances will tend to facilitate the establishment of a permanent Opera.

The subscriptions to the concerts of the Philharmonic Society has been reduced from four guineas to three, two, and one. The first concert is fixed for Wednesday the 10th of March, but the other concerts are to take place, as heretofore, on Monday. So the old society has not only abandoned its exclusive, its almost prohibitory, tariff, and its famous meeting-place, in Hanover Square, but even, for the first concert at least, its prescriptive Monday, for the sake of which it some years ago sacrificed its entire orchestra. Let us hope that a new career of usefulness is opening to a society which in its best days did good service. Mr. Cusins has a difficult task before him, but he is young and enthusiastic—the two best qualities wherewith to win success.

Dr. Bennett's 'Woman of Samaria' is winning its way into the provincial ear. It was given at Mr. Halle's fourth Manchester Concert, and pleased, despite insufficient rehearsal. At the same concert, Mr. Halle brought forward Beethoven's Mass in c.

Although Rossini himself, in a recently-written letter, playfully referred to his being styled by his compatriots the "Swan of Pesaro," another place has just claimed the honour of giving him birth. The Municipal Council of Lugo, a small town in the province of Ravenna, is about to publish the acts and documents that establish their home to have been his birthplace. The members of the Council are decidedly in earnest, for they have not only sent to Madame Rossini a letter of condolence, but have decreed a statue to Rossini, and resolved that the house in which he was born should be purchased by the commune and dedicated to the memory of the master. It is now reported that Madame Rossini has consented to the removal of the body to Italy. Will it go to Pesaro or Lugo? We trust to neither: Rossini's dust should mingle with that of the many great men who rest at Santa Croce, the Westminster Abbey of Florence.

Signor Verdi has addressed to Signor Ricordi, the well-known music-publisher of Milan, a thoroughly characteristic letter, in which he suggests that a Requiem Mass shall be expressly written for the next anniversary of Rossini's death. He proposes that the most distinguished Italian composers shall collaborate, Mercadante heading the list, "even though," adds Verdi, "he write only a few bars." None but Italians and none but artists are to take part in it, otherwise Verdi withdraws his aid. The Mass is to be celebrated in the church of San Petronio, in Bologna, "*vera patria musicale di Rossini*," and the score is to be sealed up immediately after the performance and placed in the Liceo Musicale, from which it is never to be taken, unless posterity should choose to celebrate another anniversary. "If I were in the good graces of the Holy Father," continues Verdi, "I would beg him to allow women to take part, if only for this once, in the execution of the music; but as I am not in favour, it will be well to find some fitter person to obtain the wished for result." The idea of locking up a composition to which all Italy is to contribute, is, of course, absurd; and Verdi's fancy for beginning the word "lui," having

reference to Rossini, with a capital "L," will offend all who are likely to be propitiated by his sneer at the Pope. But the writer's impatience of foreign and official interference is characteristic of the man, and his proposal is worth the consideration of his countrymen.

Rossini has been more generally honoured, in death as in life, than any other composer of any time. In every town of Italy, almost in every theatre of France, and in all sorts of "places where they sing" in London, some attempt has been made to show respect to the dead and, at the same time, to attract the living. Even at the Alhambra, the unlikely place to be predicated for such a celebration, there has been a "Rossini night," when selections from his works were played, and a decorated bust was displayed upon the stage.

The concerts of the Paris Conservatoire are announced to begin on Sunday, the 13th instant.

Madame Carvalho has declined to interfere with her manager's previously-made arrangements, and therefore relinquishes to Mlle. Nilsson the task of "creating" the part of *Marguerite*. The Parisians refuse to learn that the young Swedish singer has played here in 'Faust' during two seasons. Madame Carvalho at the present revival, at the Grand Opéra, of 'Les Huguenots,' has made a hit as the *Queen*, a part which she also has played here, and the music of which suits her to a nicety.

Several novelties are forthcoming at the Vaudeville. Among them are a five-act drama by M. Robert Halt, hitherto known only as a novelist; 'Le Macaroni,' a one-act piece, written by M. Labiche for Arnal; 'Autour du Lac,' a vaudeville, also in one act, and 'Miss Multon,' a three-act comedy, by MM. Eugène Nus and A. Belot, in which Mlle. Fargueil will return to the Vaudeville.

At the last *Gewandhaus* Concert, Master Frederick Cowen played Henselt's Cradle-song and Chopin's 'Polonaise' in a flat. Herr Grützmacher, the violoncellist, was also heard, and the *entr'actes* from Schubert's 'Rosamunde' were performed.

The death is announced of M. Félicien Mallefille, a well-known French dramatist. M. Mallefille was in his fifty-sixth year, and was born in the Ile de France. His first dramatic composition was 'Glenarvon,' represented in 1835 at the Ambigu Comique. From this time forward he wrote constantly for the stage. Among the best-known of his works are 'Psyche,' played at the Vaudeville in 1845,—'Forta Spada,' produced at the Gaité in 1849,—'Le Cœur et la Dot' and 'Les Deux Veuves,' both brought out at the Théâtre Français, the former in 1858 and the latter in 1860,—and 'Les Mères Repenties,' produced at the Porte St.-Martin and reproduced at the Vaudeville. His 'Sceptiques,' written last year for the Théâtre Français, but played at the Théâtre Cluny, was also a great success. At the time of his death M. Mallefille was engaged upon the composition of a piece for M. Harman, of the Vaudeville, entitled 'Le Gentilhomme Bourgeois,' which remains unfinished.

MISCELLANEA

Herné's Oak.—The difference of opinion entertained by disputants relative to the identity of this tree is proverbial, but the cause of these differences, or rather the origin of these opinions, has perhaps never been clearly shown; and though the attempt to define them, would be more worthy of their attention, if made by any one less interested, I doubt not those of your readers whose opinions differ from mine, will, nevertheless, pass an impartial judgment on the theory which has presented itself to my mind, which, with your kind permission, I will endeavour to lay before your readers, hoping it will be interesting to some of them. During the latter part of the last century, we have the first record of this difference of opinion existing, and it is a fact which cannot be denied, that, among the opponents of the maiden tree were many men of learning and intelligence, whose opinions on the subject were worthy of respect: and if we are to accept the Rev. A. E. Howman's evidence, that, the "best informed persons" (see p. 21, *Treatise on Herné's Oak*.) opposed the maiden tree, we must infer that the *worst informed, or least educated*, supported it. Yet

strange to say, the latter prevailed over the former, by the rival tree being cut down in 1796, to prevent any further dispute as to which was the real Herne's Oak. From this, it appears that the persons least informed, or educated, held the most popular opinion. A clue to the source of this opinion has been given by the late Mr. Jesse; he tells us, they, the old people, received it from their fathers and grandfathers, consequently, they derived it from tradition. And in spite of the flourishing condition the maiden tree presented at the close of the last century, they stuck to their belief, seemingly, against all reason; it was with them a simple faith in what their ancestors had told them. How an adverse opinion came to be held by more educated persons can be readily imagined. Men of learning who were familiar with Shakspeare's writings, would naturally argue, that a tree said to have been blasted by Herne the Hunter, must necessarily be decayed and withered, much more than a century after Shakspeare wrote; and appearing so vigorous as the maiden tree did at so late a period, they would as naturally conclude that it could not be the real one on that account. Of course they could not look inside the trunk and see that it was hollow, nor could they analyze its wood and perceive those peculiarities in its formation which prove to demonstration that it really had been blasted, or blighted, by some means, long ago, had revived again and lived ages after flourishingly. I pretend to no extraordinary wisdom or powers of discernment, and confess, had I lived in the latter part of the last century, I should have doubted its identity, as many with good reason did; and it is only by having had the opportunity of examining carefully its wood, which they had not (the result of which has already been made public), that I fancy myself better able to discern the truth, and presume to submit to those who take an interest in the subject a probable reason why the unlearned, while apparently wrong in their belief, were right, relying faithfully on tradition; and the learned, being apparently right, were wrong, while judging of it, as most probably they did, from its external appearance, at a time when it had ceased to exhibit those peculiar features which first attracted notice. W. PERRY.

Knapack.—Perhaps some light may be thrown on the etymology of the word *knapack* by considering that of the French word *harnasac* and of the German *Habersack*. The first is evidently derived from the latter, which means *oat-sack*. This etymology points to the state of the commissariat in the armies during the middle ages. The commissariat was then, as it is now, the great difficulty in the way of carrying on a campaign or advancing into an enemy's territory. I have heard some of my Swiss friends assert, that the Bernese and their allies of the Forest Cantons were, in the middle ages, the first to solve this difficulty. The solution was simple: they slung over their shoulders a wallet containing a supply of oats for several days. Probably oats were, in their valleys, the only cereal grass then abundantly cultivated. They are certainly the cereal that produces the greatest amount of muscular strength. This is not the place to dilate on the part the Swiss infantry played in the game of war at a time when the infantry was considered capable of resisting mailed knights on horseback. May not the word *knapack* be formed from the coalescence of the *n* in the article *an* with the following word: thus, ein Habersack = an abersack = a nabersack = an apack? A parallel case is a nag = an *og* in Danish; an adder = an nadder. The other German terms *Knapack*, *Schnapack* are nearer the English word. *Knappen* = *knistern* = to nibble: a derivation from *knappen* is *Kneipe* = a low eating-house. *Schnappen* = to bite at, thence *schneppeln* = to snip, to cut into small bits. *Knappsack* and *Schnappsack* are, therefore, pouches to contain provisions intended to be eaten frugally. The usual word for an itinerant workman's (Handwerksbursch) wallet is *Ranzen* or *Ränzel* = venter. *Knappsack* = (Gallic) canapsa. THOMAS HARVEY.

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